

EUROPEAN NEWS

Defence lawyers clash with judges as Solidarity trial opens

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

THE TRIAL of three top Solidarity leaders began here yesterday under strict security conditions. Only close family members of the accused were admitted to the court.

As the proceedings began the eight defence lawyers clashed with the judges over a demand that more people be admitted to the court. Seven family members have been admitted, the remaining 50 or so seats are filled with what appear to be security men.

The day continued in "a

tense atmosphere which was full of conflicts," one of the lawyers said, as the defence attempted to exact full rights for the three accused, who have said they will not testify unless allowed a private hearing with their lawyers.

On trial are Mr Bogdan Lis, Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Mr Adam Michnik. They are accused of trying to provoke unrest and belonging to an illegal organisation.

Mr Lis, who was once Mr Lech Walesa's deputy, led the

underground in Gdansk until his arrest last summer and his subsequent release late last year. Mr Frasyniuk comes from Wroclaw where he established a flourishing clandestine movement which he directed until arrested in the autumn of 1983.

He was arrested last July. Mr Michnik is a dissenting intellectual from Warsaw who is an established political writer who was also released in July.

Mr Michnik and Mr Lis, along with the Solidarity underground leadership, openly called for a

series of protests against food price rises earlier this year. Mr Frasyniuk later took part in a planning meeting devoted to the protests which attracted little support.

Mr Walesa and several others were also present at the meeting, which was broken up by the police. An investigation against these has been started.

The proceedings mark the failure of the Government's policy, initiated last July with an amnesty for political prisoners, which aimed at clear-

ing the country's jails of political offenders, neutralising the underground opposition and improving Poland's official image in the West.

The government hoped that freeing some 500 people, including 11 senior Solidarity leaders, would achieve this aim without requiring any political concessions to either the Roman Catholic Church or society at large. But ten months later, Poland once more has about 150 political detainees awaiting trial, the underground

opposition still exists, and there is every sign that arrests will continue.

This is the first important political trial since the amnesty. The Government has contented itself until now with giving short, if onerous, three month sentences for public order offences to leading figures in the solidarity movement who make no secret of their support for the banned union.

Tighter criminal code regulations, due to come into effect

Western banker sees Yugoslav debt delay

By David Buchan and Alexander Lebl in Belgrade

YUGOSLAVIA'S ATTEMPT to renegotiate a lower interest rate on its 1983-84 rescheduled debt could prolong its current negotiations with commercial banks on 1985-86 debt relief by another six months, a senior Western banker warned here yesterday.

Mr Fulvio Dobrich, a Manufacturers Hanover vice-president and chairman of the group representing Yugoslavia's several hundred commercial bank creditors, is here with a trio of British, West German and Japanese bankers to explore the chances of agreement on a four-year debt rescheduling. Until there is agreement, Western banks were unlikely to make any new loans without their government's guarantee.

Yugoslavia has rescheduled its official 1985 debt with Western governments and Kuwait, but two months of negotiations have so far failed to bring final agreement with commercial banks. The latter have agreed to give debt relief for two years, 1985-86, but are still resisting Yugoslavia's demands for a lower spread on the interest rate.

The Yugoslav negotiating position has been weakened by the poor performance of the economy this year. After relatively good 1984 results, hard currency exports and central bank reserves fell in the first four months of this year, as dramatically underlined last week by Mr Radovan Markovic, the national bank governor.

Bank officials say that total reserves, which were \$2.1bn last December, dropped as much as \$450m at the end of February, but have since risen slightly.

According to the programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund, reserves are supposed to exceed last year's figure by \$200m by the end of 1985. If Western bankers' reports of this year's poorer performance as impairing Yugoslavia's creditworthiness, they may seek to cover the risk with a higher interest rate.

FINANCIAL TIMES, US\$ 10000 published daily except Sundays and holidays. U.S. subscription rates \$40.00 per annum. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: send address changes to FINANCIAL TIMES, 14 East 57th Street, New York, NY 10022.

Legal action looms on airlines

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN BRUSSELS

THE EUROPEAN Commission has decided to take legal action against seven member states for failing to disclose information about their national airline operations.

The move, announced yesterday by Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, Transport Commissioner, to the Council of EEC Transport Ministers in Brussels, is the latest step in a campaign by the Commission to

create more competition in European air transport.

At the same time, the Commission is to insist on member states getting together to agree on a common position on civil aviation policy for the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), invoking for the first time a right of consultation agreed six years ago.

Mr Clinton Davis said the Com-

mission was "profoundly disappointed" at the lack of progress made by transport ministers towards a more flexible air fares policy which, he said, would lead to cheaper fares for travellers.

Legal proceedings against the seven members are being taken under Article 169 of the Treaty of Rome.

Coalition in Portugal under strain

By Diana Smith in Lisbon

PORTUGAL'S PREMIER, Sr Mario Soares, and his Socialist Party were still awaiting clear signals yesterday from the new leaders of the Social Democrat Party (PSD) whether they intend to remain partners in the coalition government.

Sr Antonio Cavaco Silva, the new PSD leader, a highly skilled but somewhat abrasive economist, has said he is "not too interested" in joining the Government. But he has left the door open for negotiation by stating that he wants to exact far more radical economic reforms from the coalition in order to close the gap more rapidly between Portugal and the other EEC countries.

Officials are worried by the possibility of a showdown with the PSD shortly before Portugal's EEC accession treaty is signed in Lisbon on June 12.

Sr Soares, who has doggedly picked his way through frequent PSD upheavals over the past two years, ensuring government stability when the junior partner has been turbulent now faces a new challenge.

He is no longer dealing with bland PSD leaders who could barely hang on to their positions, but with a self-assured politician who is disinclined to be number two in any government and bent on pushing his party back to the top.

Sr Soares, whatever his relaxed style of leadership also likes to be number one, and when the first formal meetings occur next week between the two ambitious men with radically different styles, the atmosphere is expected to be tense.

Hungarian exports down, imports up

BY LESLIE COLT IN BERLIN

HUNGARY'S VITAL hard currency trade fell into deficit in the first quarter of the year as exports dropped 9 per cent in value while imports rose 11 per cent.

The figures were especially disappointing in view of the ambitious target of a 5700m trade surplus this year which was to have been reflected in the first-quarter results.

Last year, Hungary achieved a trade surplus of 5800m.

The unexpected deficit reflected a continued worsening of Hungary's terms of trade as the quantity of exports to hard currency markets remained at last year's level while the value fell 9 per cent. The rise in imports consisted largely of additional energy purchases because of the extremely cold winter.

Hungarian foreign trade officials said the bulk of the shortfall could be made up in coming months by improving exports and by added production. The central statistical office, however, noted that export contracts for the remaining three quarters of the year suggest a "more moderate" growth in hard

currency sales than had been estimated.

The implication for Hungarian imports from the West was that they might have to be scaled down because the increase in imports this year was to have been commensurate with the targeted increase in hard currency sales.

The Hungarian Foreign Trade Ministry said the fall in hard currency exports was most marked in the developing countries but that it was also considerable in industrialised Western nations.

Hungarian industrial production - measured on a daily basis - was up 3.5 per cent in the first quarter. In January and February, output barely exceeded last year's level, while in March it rose 6.8 per cent.

In Bulgaria, industrial output in the first quarter was 2.8 per cent below the planned target as a result of "adverse climatic conditions."

The Bulgarian Government said that trade with other Comecon countries was developing well but failed to mention hard currency trade.

Brandt may visit E. Germany

BY OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT

HERR-WILLY BRANDT, chairman of West Germany's Social Democrat Party (SPD) is considering a visit to East Germany this year for the first time since Herr Günther Guhlau, a senior aide was uncovered in April 1974 as an East German spy when Herr Brandt was Chancellor to the federal government.

Officials in East and West Germany said preparations for the visit were under way and that a date was expected to be set shortly.

Herr Brandt's first and last visit to East Germany was as Chancellor in March 1970 when he met Herr Willi Stoph, the East German Prime Minister, in Erfurt. The two men set out the ground rules for future relations between the two states.

'Spanish Watergate' continues

By Tom Burns in Madrid

A SERIOUS domestic political row, dubbed the "Spanish Watergate," looks set to continue as the Conservative opposition party, Popular Alliance, announced yesterday that it would pursue its investigation into alleged police spying into party affairs.

The move followed an inconclusive round of questioning in parliament on Wednesday evening, when Sr Manuel Fraga Iribarne, Popular Alliance's leader, demanded an explanation of the reports of telephone tapping and police surveillance of his party.

Sr Fraga failed to provide any conclusive evidence to support the allegations and his questions were stonewalled by Sr Jose Barrio-nuevo, the Interior Minister, who swore "on his honour" that he had not authorised any illegal activities.

Popular Alliance accordingly plans a full debate into the home grown "Watergate" next week in a move designed to further embarrass the Government.

A court in San Sebastian yesterday ordered one of Spain's top anti-guerrilla policemen to be suspended for three years for refusing to co-operate with justice over a 1984 shooting in France, court officials told Reuters.

Commissioner Manuel Ballesteros has refused to identify three men, who he says were police informers, who crashed through the border into Spain soon after the shooting at a bar frequented by Basque separatists.

Diversified Food Corporation

has been acquired by

The Albert Fisher Group PLC

We initiated this transaction and acted as financial advisor to Diversified Food Corporation.

Bear, Stearns & Co.

New York/Atlanta/Boston/Chicago/Dallas/Los Angeles/San Francisco
Amsterdam/Geneva/Hong Kong/London/Paris

May 1985

BEAR STEARNS

Private Placement

May 1985



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

DM 202,000,000

Zero Coupon Bearer Bonds

DM 100,000,000 Bonds of 1985/1995
Redemption amount DM 200,000,000

DM 102,000,000 Bonds of 1985/2000
Redemption amount DM 300,000,000

Bayerische Vereinsbank
Aktiengesellschaft

Commerzbank
Aktiengesellschaft

Deutsche Bank
Aktiengesellschaft

Dresdner Bank
Aktiengesellschaft

Westdeutsche Landesbank
Girozentrale

Creditanstalt-Bankverein

Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank AG
Vienna

Girozentrale und Bank
der österreichischen Sparkassen
Aktiengesellschaft

Industriebank von Japan (Deutschland)
Aktiengesellschaft

Morgan Stanley International

Österreichische Länderbank
Aktiengesellschaft

Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities)
Limited

This announcement appears as a matter of record only. The Bonds have not been registered for offer or sale in the United States of America and may not be offered or sold in the United States of America or to nationals or residents thereof or to other U.S. persons.

British TELECOM
Information for Shareholders

If you are one of almost 1,750,000 people who have shares in British Telecom you are probably aware that the second instalment of 40p a share is due to be paid by 24th June 1985.

At the end of May the Government will send you a reminder about the instalment which tells you exactly how much you have to pay and how to do so.

If you think you will be away from home in June you can arrange to pay the second instalment now. To do so, you should write to Lloyd's Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA; they will tell you what to do.

The Stock Exchange price of BT's shares will be adjusted on 28th May to take into account the extra 40p you will be paying.*

If you are one of the individuals who bought shares in the flotation you became a founder shareholder. At that time you were able to apply for special benefits by way of either bill vouchers or the share bonus.

By paying the second instalment and remaining a shareholder until 25th June 1985 you will remain eligible for EITHER:

● Bill vouchers.

You will receive the following number of vouchers depending on how many shares you have held since the flotation -

200 shares - one voucher in July 1985 worth £18.

400 shares - two vouchers in July 1985 worth £36

800 shares - two vouchers in July 1985 worth £36 and (if you still hold these shares on 23rd December 1985) two more vouchers early next year also worth £36... OR -

● Share bonus.

To keep your entitlement to one free share for every ten shares bought at the time of flotation you must retain at least that number of shares until 30th November 1987, and pay the second and third instalments.

All shareholders are eligible for:

● Dividends.

The first dividend is expected to be 3.9p per share (net of tax) and will be payable in August 1985. So if you hold: -
200 shares you will receive £7.80.
400 shares you will receive £15.60.
800 shares you will receive £31.20.

An interim dividend for 1985-86 is also expected to be paid in February next year.

*From the end of May you will only be able to deal in BT's shares on the basis that the instalment has been paid.

NOTE: The bill vouchers and share bonus only apply if you bought shares in the initial offer of November 1984.



EUROPEAN NEWS

French overseas investment 'less than competitors'

BY DAVID HOUSEGO IN PARIS

FRENCH companies had invested insufficiently abroad compared with their main European and American competitors, M Yvon Gattaz, the head of the French employers' federation (CNPF) warned yesterday.

Describing French companies as less internationally-minded than their competitors, he said that the amount that they had invested abroad had fallen from a peak of FFr 25bn (£2.1bn) in 1981 to FFr 16.6bn last year. France, he said, devoted only 0.33 per cent of its gross national product to direct overseas investment which was less than half the British level.

M Gattaz made his remarks at a two-day seminar organised by the CNPF, on international investing by companies—the first such gathering it has held on the subject in six years. The timing of the seminar reflects both preoccupation with the continuingly overall low levels of investment by French industry as well as increased awareness by both business and government that French industry has been losing out in not establishing a stronger presence in foreign markets.

M Gattaz contrasted France's position as the fourth largest exporter in the world with its lowest levels of foreign investment.

Two commercial television networks given go-ahead

BY PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

TWO NEW commercial television networks have been given the go-ahead in France as part of government plans to deregulate television broadcasting.

M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, made the announcement on television, adding that he proposed offering large tax concessions to support production of French feature and television films and programmes.

The Government has thus endorsed the broad suggestions of a report on the future of French television published this week.

Prepared by M Jean Denis Bradin, a senior French official, it recommended two new commercial nationwide networks to be set up in association with a large number of local television chains.

But, with his tax concession proposals, M Fabius has taken the broadcasting deregulation process a step further. The film and television programme industry would offer a tax shelter for investors placing their money in the form of risk capital into new film or television productions. These investments would become tax deductible. At the same time, the amount of tax deductible contributions which large corporations and enterprises can make to sponsor artistic events or productions has been increased.

Ireland's rising debt worries OECD

By Brendan Keenan in Dublin

THE IRISH authorities should take swifter action to reduce government deficits in view of the rising burden of foreign debt, according to a report from the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Government debt stands at 128 per cent of gross national product (the highest figure in the OECD area), it says, and government foreign debt alone represents 55 per cent of GNP.

The report estimates that interest payments abroad may represent 6 per cent of GNP this year. It wants the Government to accelerate the correction process, which at present envisages the budget deficit falling to 5 per cent of GNP by 1987.

Cuts in the real value of social benefits and health and education services may be inevitable, it says. Although inflation has fallen rapidly to below 6 per cent, the decline in sterling against the EMS currencies, of which Ireland is a member, has reduced Irish competitiveness.

The scale of government borrowing means that interest rates are likely to remain high in the next few years and may not fully follow any decline in international rates. The report is also gloomy about unemployment and sees little early prospect of a fall below the present 17 per cent level.

It pays considerable attention to the emergence of a dual economy in Ireland, with new, foreign companies supplying most of the growth in output and exports, while Irish industry lags behind.

Foreign concerns contributed most of the 19 per cent volume increase in manufactured exports last year, and are expected to continue to perform well for the next few years.

However, profit repatriation by foreign companies is estimated to have reached £800m (£723m) in 1984, and the report says links between the foreign manufacturers and domestic suppliers are weak. The costs of attracting foreign industry have also been high.

The OECD welcomes changes in industrial policy towards developing indigenous industry but points to the need to reduce the share of resources going to the public sector.

MINISTERS AGAIN FAIL TO REACH DECISION

EEC impasse on transport plan

BY QUENTIN PEEL IN BRUSSELS

THE TEN Transport Ministers of the EEC yesterday responded to a sharp reprimand by the European Court of Justice by doing exactly what they were accused of—failing to reach any decision.

A day-long meeting called to decide on how many hours should be worked by long-distance drivers, and on a master plan for transport throughout the Community, ended with all the decisions being referred back to officials, and a further meeting being called for next month.

A threat by the European Commission to withdraw its proposal on drivers' hours, if it was substantially changed by the Council, was never put into

	Commission plan	Council plan
Maximum daily	9 (+1)	9 (+1)
Weekly/fortnightly	45	90 (-2)
Minimum daily rest	12 (+1)	11 (as new)
	in one period	in two periods, e.g. 8+3
Minimum weekly rest	48	42

effect, as the ministers became bogged down in their own differences.

The judgment of the European Court—that the Council of Ministers had breached the Treaty of Rome by failing to provide freedom of transport

a decision which he welcomed. He said the Court was insisting on genuine liberalisation of transport services, the one subject which the master plan failed to implement.

He criticised the Commission for its threat to withdraw the drivers' hours proposal, saying it was hard enough for the ministers to reach agreement without the Commission making it more difficult when they threatened to do so.

"I do think it is scandalous that the Community has taken so long to get even where it has got to," he said. "If we get to the stage where the Commission frustrates progress, then we really will be in a parlous state."

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the British Transport Minister, said that failure to decide on the transport master plan proposed by Italy was a direct result of

Norwegian oilmen try to tame the waves

BY DOMINIC LAWSON

NORSK HYDRO, Norway's largest industrial company, is planning to preserve the sinking platforms of the Ekofisk oilfield by taming the waves of the North Sea.

The platforms of Ekofisk have sunk by several feet since the field became the first source of North Sea oil production in 1971. If there is further subsidence there is a risk that the platforms' facilities could be very badly damaged by a wave of over 25 metres.

Plans to restructure the platforms could lead to a shut-

down of the 245,000 barrels a day field, Norway's second most productive. The field is also the crucial link in Norway's gas sales to the Continent, not only through its own gas production but also as a conduit for gas production from fields further north.

Norsk Hydro, which has a 7 per cent stake in the field, has developed a radical solution, which would break up any wave which threatened the installation. Under this plan the field would not need to be shut down, for mechanical devices quite

separate from the installations would be constructed.

Norsk Hydro's plan is to apply in reverse the technology of obtaining power through the artificial building up of a series of smaller waves into one big wave. Norsk Hydro has commissioned Norwegian institutes specialising in this work to carry out simulations to see if it is possible to break up the giant waves that may threaten Ekofisk.

Mr Trygve Røfheim, a vice president of Norsk Hydro said in Oslo yesterday: "We are hoping to be able to disperse the

energy of the waves. We would need only to reduce the height of a giant wave by 3 or 4 metres. We need to find out how much this programme would cost, but we feel fairly confident we will come up with a cost-effective solution."

Phillips, the U.S. oil company which operates Ekofisk, is next month to submit a report on the subsidence to the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate. This will be the result of three months of satellite measurements of the rate of subsidence. The first time that it has been accurately measured.

Dutch press for sterling to enter the EMS

BY LAURA RAUN IN AMSTERDAM

THE DUTCH Finance Minister, Mr Onno Ruding, yesterday appealed to Britain to join the European monetary system (EMS), arguing "that the time is ripe."

Speaking to the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, he noted that British inflation is lower than for several years, and that "British authorities are looking somewhat differently nowadays at the question of compatibility of monetary and exchange-rate targeting."

He said that full EMS participation might have a stabilising influence on exchange rate expectations and therefore

reduce the sensitivity of sterling to oil market news. "The experience of the guilder as a petro-currency may serve as an example."

"Politically, full membership in the EMS would mean a more fundamental commitment to Europe and be regarded as an important step for Europe on the road to greater integration of European markets," Mr Ruding said.

Quentin Peel adds from Brussels: Tory members of the European Parliament will meet Mr Nigel Lawson, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, today to urge him to reconsider sterling's exclusion from EMS.

Italy must raise extra revenue, says minister

BY JAMES BUXTON IN ROME

ITALY WILL have to raise an extra £10,000m (£4bn) in revenue if this year's public sector borrowing requirement target of £100,000m is to be met, Sig Giovanni Goria, the Treasury Minister, said yesterday.

The target, which has been considered increasingly unrealistic in recent weeks, would alone represent about 15 per cent of this year's expected gross domestic product, giving Italy once again easily the highest PSBR of any large industrial country.

Sig Goria's statement, circulated to ministers yesterday, makes clear that new measures to raise revenue are essential.

It is widely expected that when the political scene settles down after the regional and municipal elections earlier this month, the Government will introduce measures to raise charges for state-provided services and put up indirect taxes, such as that on petrol. These measures might not, however, raise the full £100,000m.

The anticipated gap in the public accounts is due to the fact that major revenue raising measures already introduced are not expected to produce their full yield this year, and because Parliament has recently voted through bills which will push up government expenditure this year.

Danish plan for bank deposits

Denmark's central bank plans a special deposit system for commercial and savings banks from the end of June, writes Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen. Banks will have to place in it an unspecified part of any increase in deposits with the National Bank. This is intended to reduce competition for deposits and moderate interest rates, making bonds more attractive.

Clash with Kurds

Turkey is fighting a limited guerrilla war against Kurdish separatists in the south-east, says Mr Yildirim Akbulut, the Interior Minister, writes David Barchand. He spoke after a clash between the authorities and separatist guerrillas in which eight people died in the town of Bozova.

Schiphol expansion

Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport Authority will spend more than £500m over the next ten years on improvements and expansion, writes Michael Donne. Schiphol expects to handle close to 20m passengers a year by 1995.

Troop talks resume

The Vienna talks on reducing conventional forces in Europe resumed after their spring recess, writes Patrick Blum in Vienna. He insists that the central disagreement on the current level of troops deployed by each side must be resolved if real progress is to be made.

Flick trial date

Former Economics Minister Otto Lambdordt and two other prominent West Germans will go on trial on August 29 charged with corruption and tax evasion in connection with the Flick political bribery affair, Reuter reports from Bonn.

Farmers protest

Some 20,000 Swedish farmers protested against government agricultural policies yesterday with a march that caused severe traffic jams in Stockholm, AP reports.

HELLO TOM,
THE SALES MEETING
IS IN HAMBURG.HELLO HERMANN,
THE SALES MEETING
IS IN HAMBURG.HELLO, CAN
YOU TELL PIERRE
THE SALES MEETING
IS IN HAMBURG?HELLO TOM,
HERMANN CAN'T MAKE
HAMBURG-PARIS?HELLO HERMANN,
TOM'S SECRETARY
SAYS HE CAN'T
MAKE PARIS.CAN YOU TELL
PIERRE IT'S LOOKING
LIKE LONDON?HELLO TOM,
IT'S DEFINITELY
LONDON. CAN YOU
TELL HERMANN?HELLO PIERRE,
HAS HERMANN CALLED
TO CONFIRM LONDON?NO PIERRE,
ON WEDNESDAY,
NOT THURSDAY.HELLO TOM,
CAN YOU GIVE
HERMANN & PIERRE
A MESSAGE?YES TOM,
THE DAYS CHANGED.
IT'S FRIDAY.HELLO, I'M IN
BRUSSELS, WHERE
IS EVERYBODY?

Is getting through getting you down?

No matter how advanced your telephone system is, if the person you want isn't available, you can waste valuable time.

The more people you want to reach, the more time you waste.

But with the IBM Audio Distribution System, you can get your message through. And you can do it with just one phone call.

Let's say you're away from your office

and need to get a vital message to a number of your people.

You phone the office,* enter your personal code, record your message and enter the distribution list code.

Put down the phone and be on your way — confident that your message will get through, because the IBM Audio Distribution System will keep on trying

to contact the people and pass on the information.

Your distribution lists can be compiled to cover groups of people you deal with regularly.

You can even pick up messages, add your own comments and then pass them on to others.

Surprised that IBM has a telephone system like this? You shouldn't be.

It's another example of the way IBM is integrating information and telecommunication systems to provide

its customers with new applications. With the IBM Audio Distribution System, speech is digitised and stored on a computer connected to your telephone system.

If you have over 100 staff who are often away from their telephone, it could make sound economic sense. Call your nearest IBM office today and ask for a demonstration.

Talking to us should make life easier.

IBM

*You will need an approved multi-frequency telephone or key pad.

Innovation

Bring technology's brightest minds together
to make new ideas fly.



Lockheed
Giving shape to imagination.

Advanced software specialists in Texas. Optoelectronics experts in New Jersey. Materials researchers in California. They all work together to make up Lockheed.

Top engineering and design teams have been assembled within each of the corporation's four major groups. This allows Lockheed to capitalize on unique areas of expertise and focus its efforts on business

opportunities that will be important to the future.

The Aeronautical Systems Group is studying a Transatmospheric Vehicle for high-speed missions at the edge of space. It's also exploring designs for an Advanced Tactical Fighter, and performing work on an extensive array of highly secret projects. Projects that will ensure long-term stability, and which are

vital to the security of this country.

Now in the best financial position in its history, Lockheed is taking on new challenges. A \$2.5 billion investment in research and development is planned over the next five years.

This commitment, supported by an additional \$2.5 billion investment in new facilities, will reinforce Lockheed's leadership role in tomorrow's most advanced new programs.

UK NEWS

David Fishlock, Science Editor, explains how Anglo-U.S. research collaboration on nuclear weapons helped towards a £300m factory

Aldermaston: 'enough plutonium to buy a frigate'

A SQUARE, windowless concrete box with sides the length of a football field is close to completion at Aldermaston. This is to be Britain's new plutonium factory, a £300m investment in advanced manufacturing under virtually hermetically sealed working conditions, dedicated to the production of nuclear weapon parts. Its first task will be to make the fissionable parts of the Trident warhead, the smallest nuclear weapon British scientists have ever designed.

The factory represents the biggest investment for the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment since it was originally built on a wartime airfield in Berkshire in the early 1950s, at a cost of about £80m. (Britain's first nuclear weapon, a free-fall bomb, entered service in 1955.)

According to Mr Peter Jones, Aldermaston's director, and the chief nuclear weapon designer for its last nuclear warhead Chevaline, the new factory is further evidence of the value of a unique Anglo-U.S. research collaboration on nuclear weapons dating back to 1955.

The success of this collaboration is founded on two important tenets. One is that British and American scientists exchange information only in areas where each side has something worthwhile to contribute. The other is a close understanding and shared sense of humour among scientists and engineers. Thus they will swap experience—but never designs—on a warhead for the Trident D5 missile which Britain plans to buy from the U.S.

They will not exchange data on the so-called "defensive" or X-ray neutron warhead the U.S. is exploring in its "Star Wars" programme, of which Aldermaston has no experience to offer. They do not make warheads for each other, or for any other nation, as signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

It is a collaboration which works despite a disparity of about ten times between the U.S. and UK nuclear efforts, because of the immense scientific effort needed to design a nuclear warhead. It still takes as long to design a new one as it did 30 years ago. The amount of ingenuity you have to put into a new design is almost independent of numbers required, Peter Jones contends. Scientists from Los Alamos, New Mexico, have provided the blueprints for Peter Jones's new plutonium factory. Several hundred will work inside the concrete box, half as craftsmen, the rest (many women among them)—as health physicists monitoring their safety. A control room will keep continuous check on every movement of every piece of plutonium, a costly as well as a uniquely hazardous metal.

The factory is modelled on one operating since the early 1950s, 8,000 ft high on a mesa in New Mexico. Aldermaston has a much wider role than other Defence Ministry research establishments. It also designs and tests nuclear warheads, and manufactures some of the most critical parts—including the fissionable components of plutonium. In fact, it has "cradle-to-grave" responsibility for every British nuclear warhead.

A health scare at Aldermaston in the late-1970s highlighted the fact that facilities built in the 1950s were ageing. The scare itself, involving three laundry workers thought to have been contaminated with traces of plutonium, was a false alarm. It underscored the problem, then, and still, of detecting traces of plutonium amidst all the "noise" of natural radiation.

But it sensitised Aldermaston workers and Government health officials to the fact that its plutonium manufacturing facilities were, in the words of a former director, "getting a bit crummy." Many plutonium

operations ceased for nearly three years, despite the urgency of the Chevaline programme at the time, while Aldermaston extensively refurbished its plant.

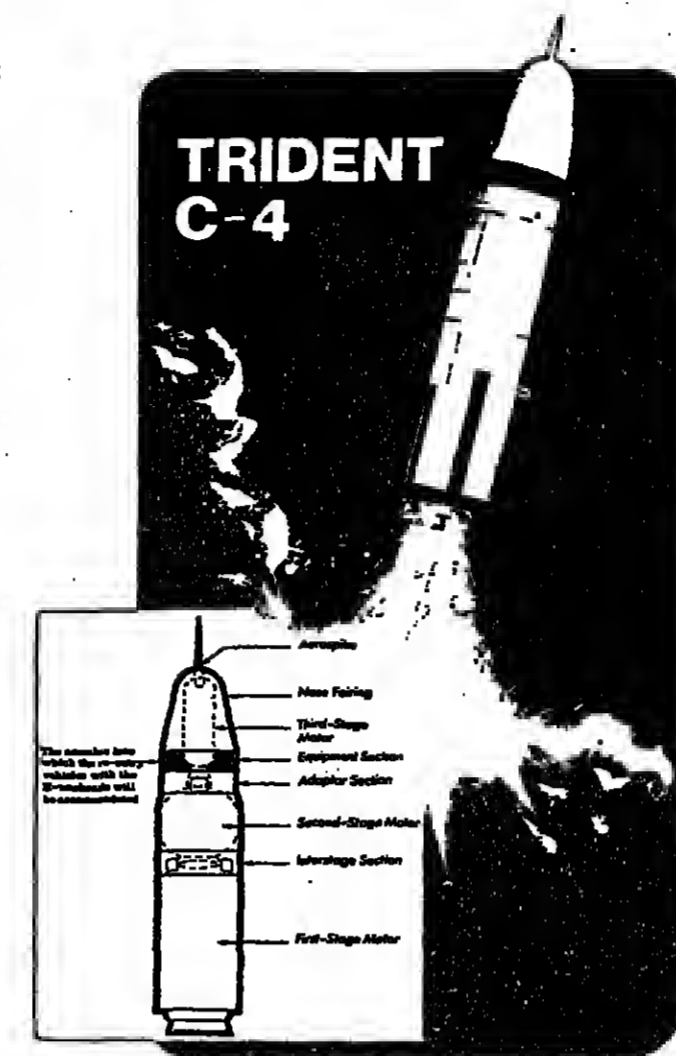
Even so, the refurbishment was not considered adequate to undertake the strains of a new warhead programme. From 1978 it was foreseen that a major new investment must be undertaken if Britain was seriously considering a new warhead, for example to replace Chevaline.

At Los Alamos, the decision to replace wartime plutonium facilities in which parts for the first A-bombs were made was taken in the early-1970s. Aldermaston recognised that, under the technical exchange agreement, it could take advantage of Los Alamos's vast experience in designing a modern plutonium factory. It also borrowed the man who built the Los Alamos plutonium factory.

Plutonium is more troublesome to work than any other metal, for several reasons. It is the most toxic of all metals, and its dust is considered a billion times more dangerous than cyanide. The escape of just a milligram into air people are breathing, on a production line handling "many kilograms" of metal, is a notifiable accident which must be reported to the government.

Plutonium is also pyrophoric. Dust and swarf, when hot, can catch fire spontaneously, burning to a dusty oxide. It must therefore be worked in an inert atmosphere, or under vacuum.

Plutonium is fissile, which means that when a certain quantity is exceeded a violent nuclear reaction takes place which, although not an explosion, releases bursts of very penetrating radiation. Just how much is needed to provoke such reaction depends on its shape and the presence of any "moderating" materials such as



lubricants or water. Plutonium movements are monitored by a system as sophisticated as air traffic control.

Not least, plutonium is costly: at £250 per gram it is 30 times the price of gold. Every fragment must be recovered.

Aldermaston's new factory stands at the heart of a 600-acre site, surrounded by its own top-security fence. Its raw material will be stored in small steel safes cemented into the floor of a vault at the bottom of the building. It comes partly from

old warheads dismantled by Aldermaston but mainly from freshly separated plutonium refined at the Sellafield factory of British Nuclear Fuels.

In effect, the plutonium factory is a huge suction machine, in which all work on the metal is done inside about 200 sealed steel boxes. These "glove boxes" are maintained at lower pressure than the area outside where the operators stand, with their hands in the gloves, so that air leaks into rather than out of the plutonium-contaminated zone. This is the dangerous or "purple" zone, as they define it.

The laboratories in which these boxes are clustered are also maintained at a lower pressure than the surrounding corridors, again so that any leak is inwards rather than outwards. The whole operation is sealed inside the windowless concrete building.

Within the steel glove boxes precision metalworking processes such as vacuum casting, numerical control machining and electro-beam welding are carried out. The raw material comes up by lift from the vault to enter an overhead conveyor serving the boxes. This conveyor is a matrix which in theory can interconnect any two of the 200-odd glove boxes in the factory.

In practice, the movement of any piece of plutonium is a remarkably sensitive matter, because of the risk of a nuclear reaction or "excursion," as the scientists say. Six people on the shopfloor must agree to every movement. Finally, their decision will be overseen by a computer, tucked away in a remote control room outside the factory.

The glove boxes and their contents are being designed at Aldermaston to minimise the chance of retaining traces of

plutonium in any form. For example, process equipment is being modified to leave as much as possible outside the box, where it is more readily serviced, and to ensure that everything inside can be reached and cleaned by the operator.

The complexity of the activity becomes clear when it is appreciated that more than 300 operations are needed to make a complete plutonium warhead component. Because of the high cost of the metal, the added value is nevertheless small compared with conventional precision metal-working.

Batteries of radiation monitors will warn the workforce of the slightest leak of plutonium. In order to heighten the sensitivity of these sensors, the inside of the concrete building is being painted with a plastic coating to keep the radio-active gas radon, present naturally in the concrete, from seeping into the factory.

Of the £300m committed to the plutonium project, the hour's share is being spent on this factory. But another big slice is for an adjacent facility to handle its radioactive wastes. These will include wastes from what in effect is a miniature chemical reprocessing plant, still to be designed, in which Aldermaston will "clean up" its old plutonium from dismantled warheads, instead of sending it to Sellafield for removal of the slowly accumulating contaminant americium, another radioactive metal. The idea is to minimise the need to transport plutonium.

Radioactive waste treatment now sprawls over 12 acres of chemical plant at Aldermaston, engineered in the 1950s. Liquid effluents are cleaned up to levels its scientists claim to be 20 times lower than those Sellafield discharges into the Irish Sea, before being released into the Thames. Sludges are stored in a tank farm, awaiting more

details of how they must be packaged for final disposal in Britain's new radwaste repositories.

Aldermaston also produces about 80 tonnes a year of trash—tissues, cloth, plastic, etc.—contaminated with traces of plutonium too small to be recoverable. This has formed part of the annual Atlantic sea dump, currently suspended, so the site is obliged to store it until a final decision is made.

All of these waste management activities are to be brought under one roof in a single facility to manage Aldermaston's radwaste. It will include the capability to cut up into manageable portions and "condition" for final disposal all the present radioactive chemical plant, and machinery such as lathes and furnaces from the present plutonium facility, once the new factory comes on-stream.

Around its big investment Aldermaston is wrapping an electronic fence, controlled from a bunker, designed to delay any intruder long enough for the security men to investigate. The prototype of this fence has recently been commissioned round its present plutonium facilities where the Chevaline warheads were made.

Every inch of a double fence and the space between is under constant surveillance from a 10-screen TV console. The camera rooms in to magnify the slightest disturbance—and frequently does, the security men say. So far it has always been wildlife, seeking the greater pastures, inside the fence.

To quote one Aldermaston executive the new top-security factory will have "enough plutonium to buy a frigate." The factory is scheduled to come on-stream in 1987-88, although it could take two years to bring such a complex facility to full capacity.

Behind every successful businessman, there's an efficient bank.

And behind more and more efficient banks, there's Hogan Systems.

Hogan Systems.

Providers of the world's most sophisticated flexible and proven software. To banks, finance and investment houses, Building Societies. To anyone, in short, who needs information for better decision-making in today's competitive financial environment.

Hogan
SYSTEMS

THE TECHNOLOGICAL EDGE IN FINANCIAL SERVICES.

HOGAN HOUSE, CHURCH STREET, WOKING, SURREY GU21 1DJ. Tel: (04852) 27801

Notice of Redemption to Holders of

J. C. Penney International Capital N.V.
12% Deferred Purchase Notes due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the provisions of the above-described Notes ("Notes") all outstanding Notes will be redeemed on June 24, 1985 at a redemption price equal to 101 1/2% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest of \$18.22 per Note to said date, for a total payment of \$1,033.22 per Note.

On June 24, 1985, the Notes will become due and payable in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debts therein. Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the Notes together with the apportioned coupons due May 1, 1986, at the option of the holder, either (a) at the office of Citibank, N.A., Bondholder Services Department, 111 Wall Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10043, or (b) subject to any applicable laws or regulations, at the main offices of Citibank, N.A. in London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt/Main, Paris and Zurich, and the main office of Citibank (Luxembourg) S.A. in Luxembourg. Payments at the offices referred to in (b) above will be made by a United States dollar check drawn on a bank in New York City or by a transfer to a United States dollar account maintained by the payee with a bank in New York City.

Coupons due on May 1, 1985 or prior thereto should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

From and after June 24, 1985, interest will cease to accrue on the Notes. Withholding of 20% of gross redemption proceeds of any payment made within the United States is required by the Interest and Dividend Compliance Act of 1983 unless the Paying Agent has the correct tax identification number (social security or employer identification number) or exemption certificate of the payee. Please furnish a properly completed Form W-9 or exemption certificate or equivalent when presenting your securities for payment within the United States.

J. C. Penney International Capital N.V.

By: P. F. Hubbard

Managing Director

Dated: May 24, 1985

Twenty-four top multinationals each spend £1,000,000 or more on business travel with Hogg Robinson.

Why?

No major company makes a buying decision lightly. Particularly when the expenditure ranges between one and five million pounds.

The reasons why so many choose Hogg Robinson for their business travel management could be of interest to other businesses with large travel budgets.

Price has to be a major factor. And we pass that test twice over.

We offer air fare savings opportunities to 280 cities, plus a range of hotel room rates and benefits worldwide that no other UK travel agent can match. With many airlines and hotels our negotiations produce rates of exceptional value, exclusively for Hogg Robinson clients. All of these are accessible immediately from our own comprehensive database.

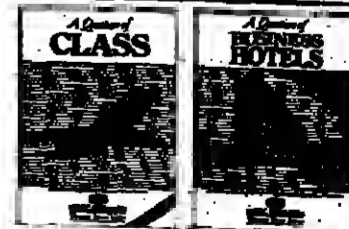
Reliable service may be a cliché—but it's none the less vital and not universally available in the travel business. We have 190 branches in the UK. Our Business Travel Centres are linked to our own comprehensive database through the Travicom reservations system, so the service you receive from any one of them is identical with the service you'll get from our Head Office. And it's provided by people who make it their business to understand your travel needs.

Computer technology is vital to our operation. In addition to speed of information access

and reservation handling, this technology base allows us to build more into the service we offer you; flexible accounting options; regular analysis and reports for tighter management control; plus access to additional services such as Diners Club Business Expense Management. Find out how your company can get better travel management at lower cost. As part of our service we publish two new and unique guides for business travellers. A Question of Class is a survey of inflight services and facilities on 34 major world airlines; A Question of Business Hotels provides in-depth

information about leading business hotels in over 70 cities worldwide, at which we offer exceptional room rates. For your copies of these invaluable publications, return the coupon or ask your secretary to write to us at the address below.

Hogg Robinson.
Better business travel without doubt.



To: The Commercial Director, Hogg Robinson Travel, International Buildings, 71 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SU. Please send me details of your business travel service. I would like to receive a copy of A Question of Class. A Question of Business Hotels (please tick as appropriate)

Name _____
Position _____
Company _____
Address _____
Tel _____

Member of THE WOODSIDE GROUP OF TRAVEL AGENCIES

Jordan

King Hussein has taken a bold initiative in seeking a settlement with Israel, but the outcome is uncertain. A new government faces a formidable challenge in stimulating the economy after a three-year recession and rapid decline in growth. It intends to encourage the private and foreign sector

Full circle for peace

By Richard Johns

THERE IS a deep and somewhat sobering irony in the fact that King Hussein should now be embarking on a peace initiative with Mr Yasser Arafat aimed at a confederation between the East Bank and a Palestinian entity on occupied territory exchanged by Israel in return for peace.

Thirteen years ago the Hashemite monarch announced a plan for a "united Arab kingdom," essentially the same formula as the one proposed under an accord concluded by King Hussein and Mr Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, on February 11 this year.

King Hussein, the great survivor and now the third-longest surviving head of state after the Emperor of Japan and Queen Elizabeth II is nothing if not consistent.

Arab rejection of his 1972 solution to the Palestinian problem, which was also anathema to Israel, was almost total. It was turned down flat not only by the PLO, with which King Hussein's loyal Jordanian Arab Army had been engaged in the bloody civil war of 1970, but also by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, who subsequently signed a bilateral peace treaty with Israel containing related provisions about Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip so loose as to ensure that

no such thing would materialise.

Perhaps if his 1972 proposal had won majority backing in the Arab world and been adopted by the common middle ground of the international community including a U.S. then less blessed to Israel, then a better deal for the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories, and perhaps also a form of self-determination, could have been obtained more satisfactory than any in prospect now.

Subsequently, King Hussein bound himself to the 1974 Arab summit decision at Rabat, recognising the PLO as the "sole representative" of the Palestinian people.

Having boldly resumed diplomatic relations with Egypt late last summer and reached a fulsome, for the time being, rapprochement with the PLO, King Hussein is being strongly supported in his pursuit of the joint initiative by President Hosni Mubarak.

It has the approval of Jordan's war-preoccupied ally Iraq. But, disappointingly, only a typically ambivalent private blessing from Saudi Arabia—for ever fearful of Syria—and the other Gulf states with the exception of peripheral strongly pro-Western Oman.

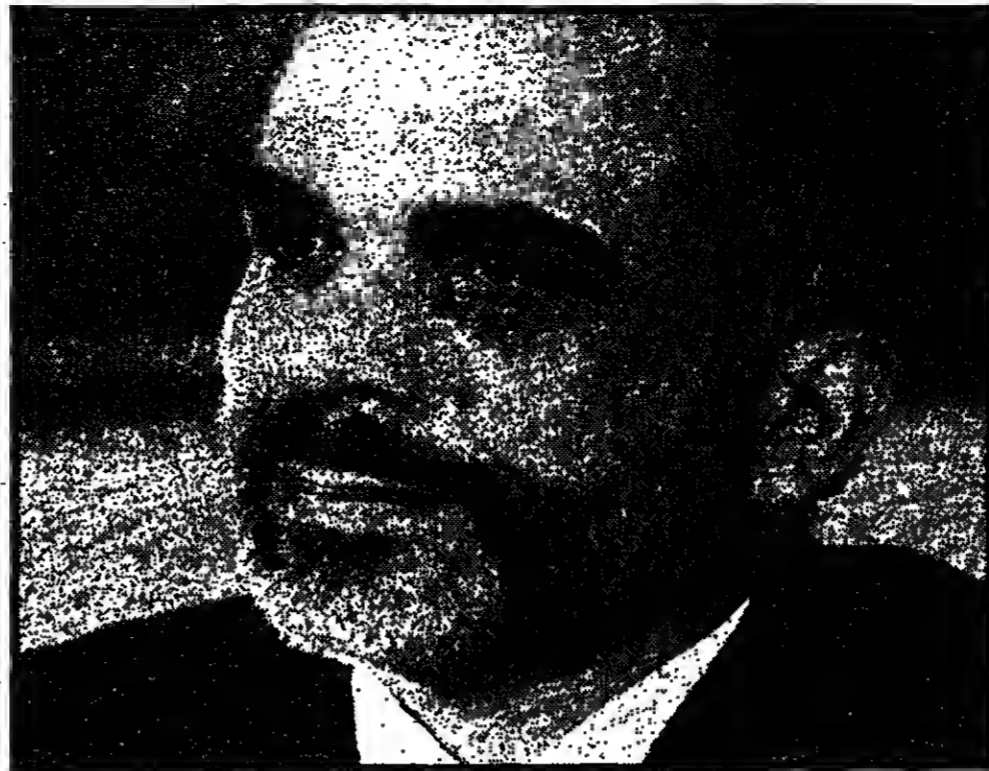
There can be no doubt of the sincerity of King Hussein's initiative and his belief that it might succeed if a new atmosphere of moderation could be created in the region, and if the intransigent stance of extremists on both sides were broken down.

Perceiving the glimmer of a "last chance," short-term and long-term, the Hashemite monarch felt that he had no choice but to pursue it and explore the possibilities of a new "peace process."

As the Arab leader, Mr Arafat arguably apart, most intimately involved with the problem of the occupied territories, King Hussein cannot easily live with diplomatic inertia relating to the issue. His direct descent from the Prophet, an important aspect of the allegiance owed to him by the House of Hashem's basic East Bank following, gives him a special interest in Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest shrine.

In 1948, his grandfather, King Abdullah, annexed the old city and the West Bank at the end of the first Arab-Israeli war, acquiring in the process Palestinian citizens and refugees. Their number increased with the loss of the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 1967 with the Israeli occupation after King Hussein's rash entry into the conflict on Egypt's side (though Jordanians argue that sooner or later Israel would have created a casus belli to conquer them).

Over half, perhaps as much as two-thirds of Jordan's population, estimated at 3.25m, including some 750,000 expatriate workers in the Gulf and refugees but not the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank, are of Palestinian origin. With the Lebanese state in virtual ruin, largely as a result of the Palestinian problem, King Hussein's regime is potentially the most



King Hussein: the sincerity of his belief in the peace initiative is in no doubt

vulnerable to any explosion of frustration which might be stirred up by hostile Syria or fomented by Islamic fundamentalists. Their existence in Jordan is very evident and a source of concern to King Hussein.

In this context Israeli talk of the Palestinians already having a homeland on the East Bank of the Jordan river—a concept viewed favourably by some in high quarters in the U.S.—can only sound sinister to the House of Hashem, East Bankers and also well-integrated, prosperous people of Palestinian origin whose loyalties were torn by the chaos and bloody events of 1968 and 1970.

Moderate

The new "peace process" is at an embryonic stage and could be easily aborted. It is difficult to see how the gap between the PLO and Israel on the issue of Palestinian representation can be bridged. Or how any negotiations if they were ever to start—even with a Labour Party majority government in power in Israel—could offer anything minimally

acceptable to even the most moderate members of the divided PLO mainstream.

Nevertheless, the split in the PLO, shedding it of its totally intransigent elements, the emergence of a moderate Arab axis in the heart of the Middle East, the remote possibility of a conflict-weary Israeli electorate returning the Labour Party to power, having won an election on a peace negotiations mandate, and the landslide re-election of President Reagan, all combined to persuade King Hussein to go ahead.

The initiative must inevitably involve some risk to him if it progresses. Syria, patron of the anti-Arafat factions of the Palestinian movement, is bitterly hostile to it and any peace momentum based on the February 11 accord can only intensify the antagonism dating back to Jordan's support back in 1980 for Iraq in the early days of its conflict with Iran when Syria and Jordan came far closer to war than is generally appreciated.

Man-for-man, Jordan may still have the best-trained and motivated armed forces in the Arab world but their weaponry

quantitatively and qualitatively has declined rapidly in relation to Syria's. And clearly the Kingdom has no place in the ruling Syrian Baath Party's long-term strategy of hegemony over the region.

Syria's relentless hostility has been shown by the long series of terrorist attacks on Jordanian interests and diplomatic personnel abroad. This threat is the main reason for the heavy, if unoppressive, security apparatus within the country itself—very visible in the form of uniformed personnel and quite easily identifiable in the form of the pervasive, 20,000 strong Mukhabarat, the country's internal intelligence men. Despite these precautions, this well-ordered country, in particular its capital, remains a relaxed and easy-going island of tranquility and civility in an ultra-tense region.

Internally, the new alliance with the PLO is regarded with some suspicion by East Bankers who, with the 1970 events in mind, would be apprehensive about a resurgence of overt Palestine influence as a result. Yet, whatever the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian collaboration, at the worst it is only likely

ON OTHER PAGES

Economy: euphoria turns to confidence	2
Planning: need for better co-ordination	2
Water supplies: making concerted approach	2
Banking: readjusting to slower growth	3
Industry: government pledge fuels optimism	3
Agriculture: struggle to achieve right policy	4
Tourism: marketing co-operation brings results	4

to strain, rather than undermine, loyalty to the King.

He happens to command a great deal of respect and affection from most of his citizens of Palestinian origin, as well as his more traditional following.

Jordan was formed as an amalgam of two very different societies, one with recent Bedouin and tribal origins and the other a far better educated, more sophisticated people of a long settled background. To a remarkable degree the two have tended to merge at middle-class level and as more Palestinians have found a common identity with East Bankers and a vested interest in the stability of the regime.

As it is, the King's recall of the National Assembly, dissolved after the 1974 summit, at Rabat, should be seen in the context of renewed moves to recover occupied territory.

Responsibility

As an honest man, as well as the fount of authority in Jordan, he should have been taken at face value when he spoke last year of wanting a "sharing of responsibility" to help formulation of the country's policies.

Seventeen years after the last general election, despite restrictions on campaigning and a ban on seven political parties, the March 1968 poll for eight of 30 seats in the Lower House (which chose the seven replacements for the West Bank), proved a lively affair and showed the extent of the desire for participation in government and democracy. A total of 116 candidates competed and women voted for the first time.

Those members returned showed an interesting balance. They included three representing traditional tribal elements, two reckoned to be left-wing Arab nationalists and two deputies of pronounced conservative Islamic leanings who have proved to be the most vociferous among a discernible opposition of six or seven—in a House where a Speaker subservient to the government

controls the microphone buttons.

By chance perhaps, Mr Ziad Rifai, the new Prime Minister spoke in the Senate, the appointed Upper House, of the need to reactivate the economy shortly before he and his new Cabinet were appointed by King Hussein early in April. Outside Jordan, the general assumption has been that the Harvard-educated Mr Rifai, a childhood friend of the monarch, was being recalled after nine years out of office primarily because of the joint peace initiative.

His rapport with the U.S. and by contrast friendly links with Syria, with which he helped to create a close detente in the mid-1970s, would have commended him to the King from this point of view. As it is, since he resumed as Premier, Syrian propaganda against King Hussein has been suspended and there have been no terrorist attacks.

A sophisticated man, he is very much more suited to the demands of high-level international diplomacy than his predecessor, Mr Ahmed Obaidat, whose background was internal security.

In reality, the main reason for the reappointment of Mr Rifai was the deterioration in the economy and the need for imaginative, liberalising measures to help revive it in the face of a regional recession, a steep fall in grant aid from Arab oil producers and a fall in the country's foreign exchange reserves.

A successful farmer in the Jordan Valley, he is fully sympathetic to the private sector and was Prime Minister during the country's 1974-76 boom.

Following three years of deepening recession, the failure to appoint a more dynamic administration can only be explained by a certain complacency engendered by the decade of growth enjoyed up to 1982, as well as the King's preoccupation with security and foreign affairs.

In their own way the country's economic problems are as challenging, and could prove as intractable as, the Palestinian issue.

ARAB BANK LTD.

55 YEARS OF BANKING EXPERIENCE

CAPITAL & RESERVES	473 MILLION \$
TOTAL DEPOSITS	10 BILLION \$
TOTAL ASSETS	12.4 BILLION \$

ARAB BANK LTD. GENERAL MANAGEMENT, SHARJAH, U.A.E. BOX 30344 TEL: 0660555555 FAX: 0660555555

JORDAN 4

In Amman
we delight in our traditional
Jordanian hospitality.
So will you.

HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL



THE ADVANTAGE IS INTER-CONTINENTAL
INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS

Queen Zain Street, P.O. Box 35014, Tel.: 21207
For reservations call your nearest Inter-Continental sales office.
There are also Inter-Continental Hotels in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Bahrain,
Dubai, Muscat, Riyadh, Taif and over 80 cities around the world.

JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTE CO. LTD. 1931-1985



54 years of experience and progress
in the Tobacco and Cigarette Industry
in the Middle East

HEAD OFFICE
P.O. Box 59

RAS-EL-EIN STREET—AMMAN, JORDAN
Tel 777112 (5 lines) Telex 21204 RADARJO
Cable Address: RADAR—AMMAN

FAMOUS CIGARETTE BRANDS
Philadelphia, Top Twenty, Gold Star, Reem
VIRGINIA AND AMERICAN BLENDS

Agriculture ANN COUNSELL

JORDAN'S newly-appointed Minister of Agriculture, Ahmad Dakhhan, has the legacy of an ailing agricultural sector which has been plagued by inconsistent policies and ineffectual marketing strategies; problems compounded by the effects of a severe drought in 1984, the worst for 37 years.

The plight of agriculture is reflected in the provisional 1984 Gross Domestic Product figures which show that agriculture's share in the GDP was only 5.6 per cent. This represents a 9.2 per cent decline in the value added contribution from the agricultural sector, while the real decline could reach 12.5 per cent in constant prices.

Increasing criticism over the shortcomings in agricultural policy, together with concern over food security and the country's ever-widening food trade deficit, prompted the Ministry to introduce an optimal cropping pattern system for irrigated vegetable growing early this year.

The system is an attempt to solve the problem of excess production of tomatoes, cucumbers, and aubergines, traditional favourites for farmers despite the cyclic glut for each crop, which has cost the Ministry an average of JD 1.25m each year in grower support.

Under the new pattern, farmers will be fined if they exceed their allocation of tomatoes and the maximum production of tomatoes for 1985 has been set at 242,000 tonnes, a reduction of 158,000 tonnes on current production.

Emphasis is on the cultivation of onions and potatoes with ambitious production targets aiming to offset combined import costs which amounted to JD 3.62m in 1984.

This is the first government attempt to interfere with growing in order to regulate agribusiness. The introduction of such a drastic measure was necessary because of the enormous increases in vegetable production which were not complemented by a corresponding development in marketing.

Twelve years ago, such a problem was unforeseen as only about 10 per cent of the country's land was considered suitable for cultivation because of the low rainfall and vast areas

of steppe or desert. The Jordan Valley, with its favourable sub-tropical climate and available water has been intensively exploited by small farmers who, using plasticiculture and drip irrigation, obtained a five-fold increase in production in as many years with a further 20 per cent increase expected by 1990.

As late as March 1983, the government decided to establish an official public marketing and processing organisation to handle all Jordan's agricultural produce. The JD 17m company took over the management of four grading, marketing and processing centres in the Jordan Valley which had previously been run by farmers' organisations and cooperatives.

A year, and numerous factory breakdowns later, the company was still not operational and in April 1985 six members of the board resigned and a new administrative committee was appointed by the government.

Recently, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's Cabinet has suggested that the private sector could play a more active role in agricultural marketing but both farmers and traders are cautious, aware that agricultural policy "goes in swings and roundabouts" as one private sector businessman described it. "One month it is free enter-

prise and the next imports and exports are restricted to the Ministry of Supply—how can I establish outlets if everything can change tomorrow?"

Ministry of Agriculture officials openly admit that uncoordinated policies and lack of quality control have not helped Jordan retain its traditional Gulf markets where low-cost suppliers, notably Greece and Turkey, now have a firm footing.

Also, with several Gulf States developing their agriculture using hydroponics and advanced, high-cost technology, it is likely that export doors will be closing.

Attempts have been made to break into the European market but here again problems of strong competition and fragmented sales efforts have tempered the potential.

The alternative is a move towards greater self-sufficiency and the introduction of the cropping patterns together with more emphasis on developing the rainfed regions indicate that this is the future direction for Jordan's agriculture.

A continuing project is the Highland Development Programme, which has just been extended for a further two years with assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP).

Essentially a land reclamation scheme, the project aims to reduce soil erosion on sloping land areas by constructing stone-wall terraces and planting stone fruit trees.

The WFP provides basic food commodities on a pro rata basis for work done on the land while the Ministry offers free technical assistance and cut-price fruit tree saplings.

Most of the costs are borne by the farmers who obtain medium and long-term loans from either the Jordan Co-operative Organisation (JCO) or the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC).

Still on the drawing board and awaiting confirmation of financing is an ambitious JD 80m to develop the Hamad basin in Azraq near the Jordanian-Saudi Arabian border.

Negotiations are under way to secure financing to cultivate an initial area of 8,600 hectares while the entire project entails growing wheat, corn, barley, potatoes and onions on 20,000 hectares. If the scheme materialises, it could go a long way to meeting Jordan's shortfall in cereals.

Successive governments have stressed the importance of increasing wheat production and guaranteed state purchase of

wheat crops at prices well above those fixed by world markets. Fluctuating rainfall, the topography and the high risks involved however often deter farmers who opt for "safer" crops such as lentils or chickpeas.

Early winter rains in October 1984 heralded an acceptable wheat harvest for 1985 as opposed to the disastrous 1984 yield of less than 10,000 tonnes—or one-fifth of annual consumption—because of severe drought conditions.

Similar uncertainty prevails regarding the cultivation of barley for animal fodder with production levels anywhere between the 1980 high of 35,000 tonnes and the 1984 estimated production of 3,500 tonnes. The barley subsidy for last year is likely to be in the region of JD 3m.

Fodder production is one of the limiting factors affecting the rearing and breeding of livestock and, subsequently, red meat production. Jordan produces less than 30 per cent of its beef and lamb requirements owing to the lack of grazing land and the high cost of imported feedstuffs.

Little success has been achieved in increasing beef production as high local costs can-

not put cattle rearing on a competitive footing with fresh or frozen imported meat.

However, more and better lamb is on the way following the establishment of the Jordan Livestock Development Company in April 1985. A partnership of public investment companies, including the JCO and ACC, are about to launch a semi-intensive stock improvement and rearing programme to gradually enrich the national flock of 1.3m sheep for slaughter.

Also, the agricultural lending institutions are extending more loans for pasture and rangeland improvement in order to support the flocks.

Work has also started on a \$1.68m project to develop pastures and livestock in the Lajun area of southern Jordan. The government will cover half of the cost with the balance being split between the United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Arab Gulf Fund.

The poultry and egg sectors have been pretty much self-sufficient for the past two years with occasional disruptions in the supply of broilers due largely to outbreaks of disease, insufficient slaughter houses and a lack of cold storage facilities.

Veterinary health care is gradually improving. Two new slaughter houses each with a capacity of 8,000 birds per hour, have been designed and the Ministry of Supply is expanding cold storage capacities which indicate that attention is being paid to keep the JD 120m poultry sector in good health.

A JD 6.5m parent stock poultry farm implemented by the Arab Company for Livestock Development is due to start turning out an annual supply of 250,000 female stock chicks this year, ensuring total broiler self-sufficiency by the end of 1986.

It is certainly not a lack of investment that has blighted the performance of the agricultural sector during the past few years as ever-increasing capital outlays have been channelled into projects throughout the Kingdom.

The crux of the problem has been, and still is, a very weak marketing system to back up production and the absence of a well-defined, long-term national policy taking into consideration domestic and export demands.

A struggle to achieve the right policy



Nomads and their goats beside the road to Damascus. These near-desert conditions are in total contrast to the very productive sub-tropical Jordan Valley with its high agricultural output

Marketing effort brings results

Tourism RAMI KHOURI

JORDAN'S TOURISM had always been defined by the country's role as the gateway to the Holy Land sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, which have been under Israeli occupation since 1967.

While tens of thousands of tourists still spend a few days in Jordan en route to the Holy Land, especially around Christmas and Easter, the government's tourism strategy in recent years has sought to sell Jordan as a destination in itself.

The strategy has started to work, thanks to a more decisive and co-ordinated marketing campaign to sell the country's wide range of attractions.

This involves the Tourism Authority, the state-owned carrier, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, private hotels and the handful of the country's 190 travel agents who work closely with foreign tour operators.

The Tourism Authority estimates that about 200,000 tourists visited Jordan last year, of which 102,000 were from Europe, 72,000 from North America and 11,500 from other parts of the world, mainly Japan and the Far East.

Travel income last year dropped slightly to JD 174m (\$435m) while Jordanian students and travellers abroad spent JD 135m (\$337m), leaving a net gain from tourism and travel of JD 39m (\$98m).

For its size, Jordan has an impressive collection of archaeological and other attractions, plus a tradition of relaxed hospitality that always leaves its mark on the foreign visitor. The weather is sunny and mild for most of the year.

For those interested in history and archaeology, Jordan offers a spectacular array of sites that cover virtually every period of human development since the late Stone Age.

The Department of Antiquities, headed by Dr Adnan Hadidi, supervises the work of some 30 foreign archaeological missions who work in the country every year alongside a small but highly respected staff of Jordanian archaeologists.

Among the country's leading sites are the Stone Age villages dating from 6000-7000 BC (Beidha and 'Ain Ghazal are the best known); walled towns and a long list of biblical sites from the Bronze and Iron ages; several Hellenistic ruins; and the unique and powerful rock-cut Nabataean capital city at Petra.

There are several Greco-Roman cities, of which Jerash,



The Roman theatre in Amman. Jordan has a wealth of remains from past civilisations.

45 minutes north of Amman and the site of an annual two-week summer arts festival, is perhaps the best-preserved Roman provincial city in the entire Middle East.

There are scores of Byzantine churches with some of the Holy Land's finest mosaics; a string of early Islamic Umayyad "desert castles"; a handful of imposing 12th century Crusader castles, and a lone Arab castle used by the forces of the Arab general Saladin (Saladin) to drive the Crusaders out of the area.

A series of Ottoman castles is found along the route of the Hejaz Railway, built before

World War I, which was a favourite target for the forces of Prince Faisal and Lawrence of Arabia during the Arab Revolt against Ottoman rule.

The country's natural wonders include the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley (at 400 metres below sea level, the lowest spot on earth); the moon-scape-like desert terrain in Wadi Rum; the winter sun-and-water resort of Aqaba; and the hot springs, desert oases and wildlife preserve at Azraq.

Then there are the thermal hot springs at Zerqa Ma'in (the Callithree of the Bible, where Herod the Great took the waters); and the always

enchanted, mysterious eastern desert inhabited by the semi-nomadic livestock breeders in their goat's hair tents.

More than 60 European and North American tour operators now offer all-inclusive tours to Jordan, either as a destination in itself or in combination with visits to Egypt, Syria or the Holy Land sites of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

European visitors now spend an average of over five nights in Jordan, though North Americans tend to spend only two or three nights in the country en route to other Middle Eastern destinations.

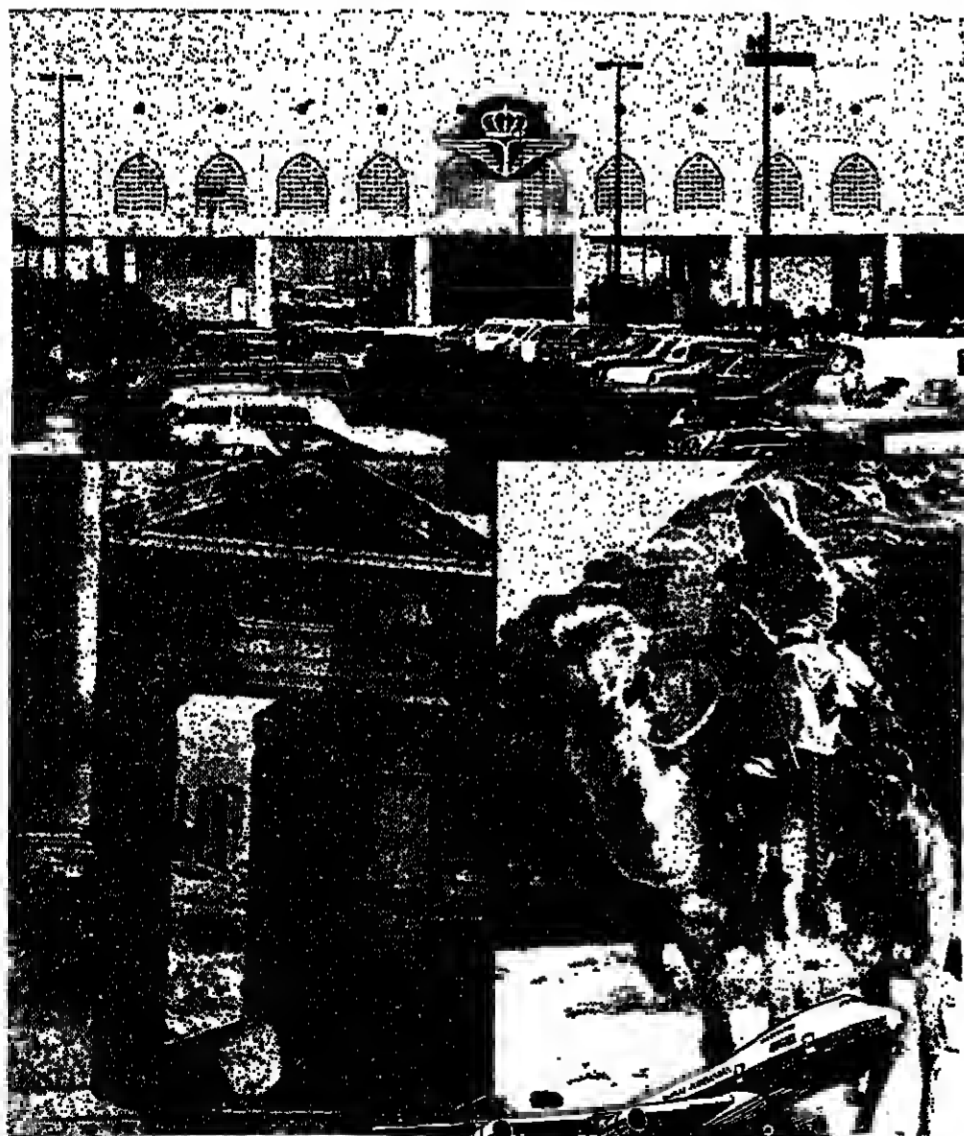
In the past six years, Jordan has tripled its classified hotel capacity to some 11,000 beds, half of which are in four and five-star hotels that include international names such as Intercontinental, Forum, Holiday Inn, Marriott, Trust Houses Forte and Mella. Another 3,600 beds will become available in the coming 18 months.

The Tourism Authority's marketing department has convinced Western tour operators to expand beyond the traditional Christmas/Easter seasons and offer trips to Jordan throughout the year.

The 84-room Petra Forum Hotel, in particular, has set a new standard for high-class and reasonably-priced accommodation in remote spots. It has shown that quality facilities, attractive prices and creative marketing in Europe and the Middle East can attract new visitors who are prepared to spend up to a week in Jordan.

The Petra Forum and the Forum-run Amra Hotel in Amman have also pioneered the incentive tour business in Jordan, which, with the convention and conference market, could be a major growth area for tourism in the future.

Alia welcomes you to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, gateway of the Middle East.



Travelling abroad? Fly Alia to Amman's impressively modern Queen Alia International Airport. Connect there with conveniently scheduled direct Alia flights to 33 major cities in Europe, the USA, North Africa, the Middle East and the Orient. And while in Amman, take time out to discover the warm hospitality of prosperous Jordan...monuments to a fascinating past at Petra or Jerash...remote desert palaces...exotic marine life in Aqaba's deliciously clear waters...the forbidding grandeur of desert where once rode Lawrence of Arabia.

Discover all this and more in Alia's Jordan, gateway of the Middle East.

Discover the Royal World of Alia.

Alia: The Royal Jordanian Airline



Fly Alia to 40 cities on 6 continents: Abu Dhabi, Amman, Amsterdam, Athens, Athens, Baghdad, Bahrain, Bangkok, Beirut, Belgrade, Brussels, Bucharest, Cairo, Copenhagen, Doha, Damascus, Dubai, Frankfurt, Geneva, Harare, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Jakarta, Jeddah, London, Los Angeles, Madras, Manila, Mexico City, Miami, Moscow, New York, Paris, Rome, Singapore, Taipei, Tokyo, Vienna.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS Co. (Pvt.) Ltd.

CHARTERING & SHIPPING AGENTS



Head Office:
P.O. Box 222 Amman - Jordan
Tel: 622324 (6 lines)
Telex: 21212, 23111; 23112 Kawa Jo
Branches:
Alpha P.O. Box 22
Tel: (03) 314217 (3 lines) Telex 62220
Beirut P.O. Box 4230
Tel: 352525, 250484 Telex 20865

A Member of



JORNAY

(Coastal Shipping in the Red Sea/East Mediterranean Region)

LINER AGENTS
CHARTERING BROKERS
FORWARDING & CLEARING
HEAVY HAULAGE
CARGO SUPER INTENDENCE
P&I CLUB REPRESENTATIVES
TRAVEL & TOURISM AGENTS



It's The Little Things That Make Us Bigger.

Every airline aims to give you a more comfortable flight, but at Pan Am we go one stage further.

We want to give you a better travelling experience.

Fresh flowers to make you feel at home.

The first thing that you notice as you step aboard your Pan Am 747 is the space.

Especially in Clipper® Class where we're changing from eight across seating to six across.

Then, as the flight progresses you'll appreciate the little touches that make travelling on Pan Am a pleasure.

Like a carnation on your table and silver service for coffee in First Class, or separate courses in Clipper Class.

Electronic headsets. More comfortable and better sound.

For a bigger sound we're providing electronic stereo headsets in First and Clipper Class.

Movie buffs will be pleased to note we're also installing a brand new Sony video system.

Free helicopter service for First and Clipper Class passengers.

8 minutes to Manhattan and 15 to Newark. That's Pan Am's traffic beating helicopter, awaiting you at our own Worldport® terminal, JFK.

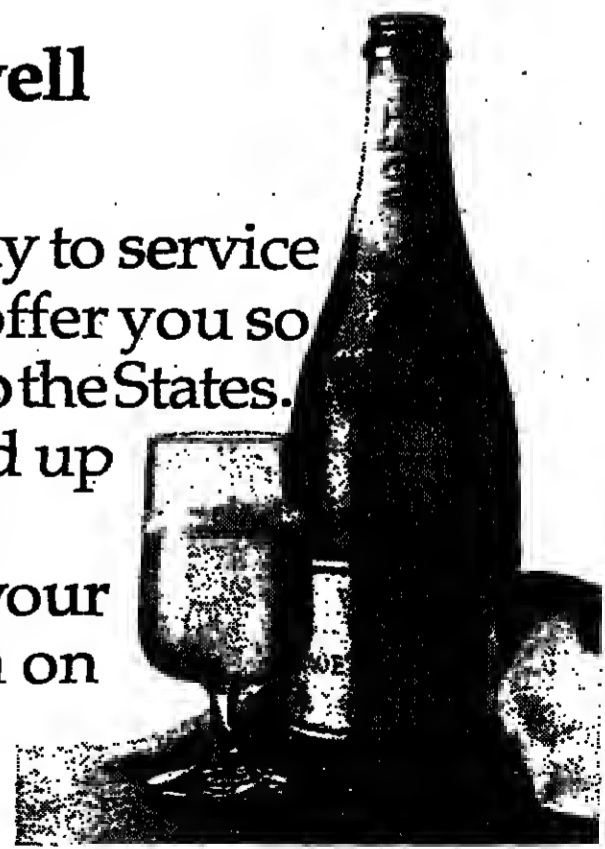
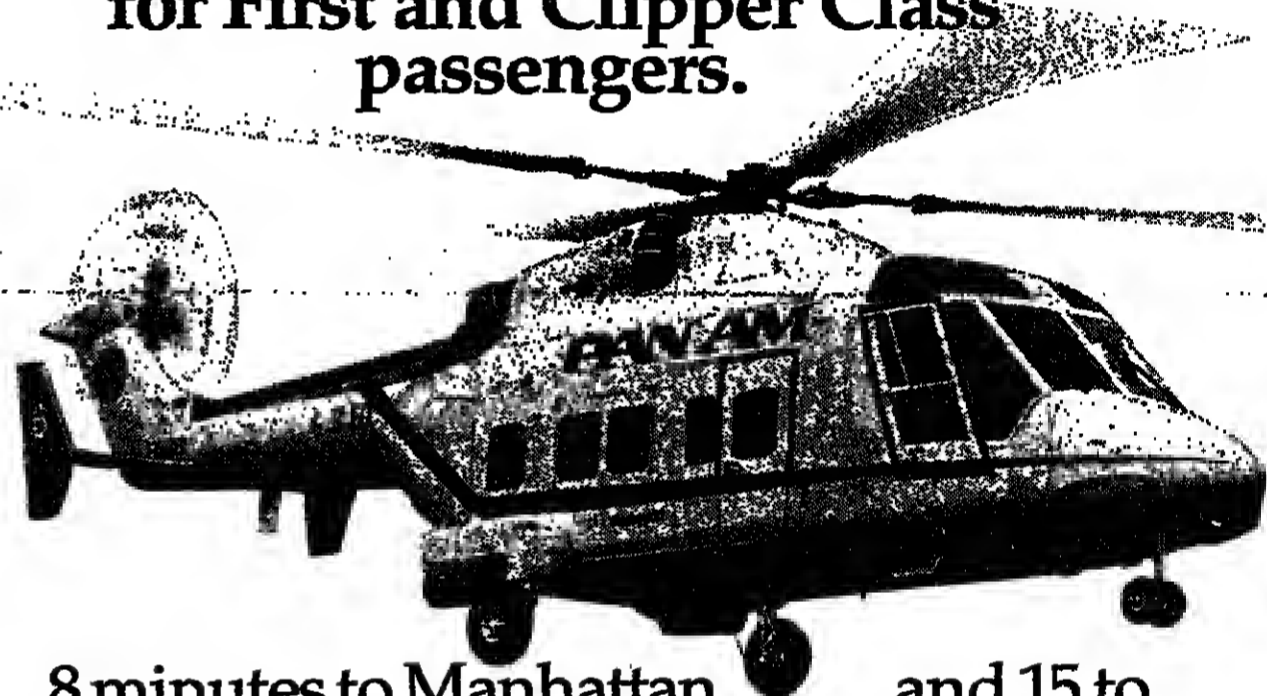
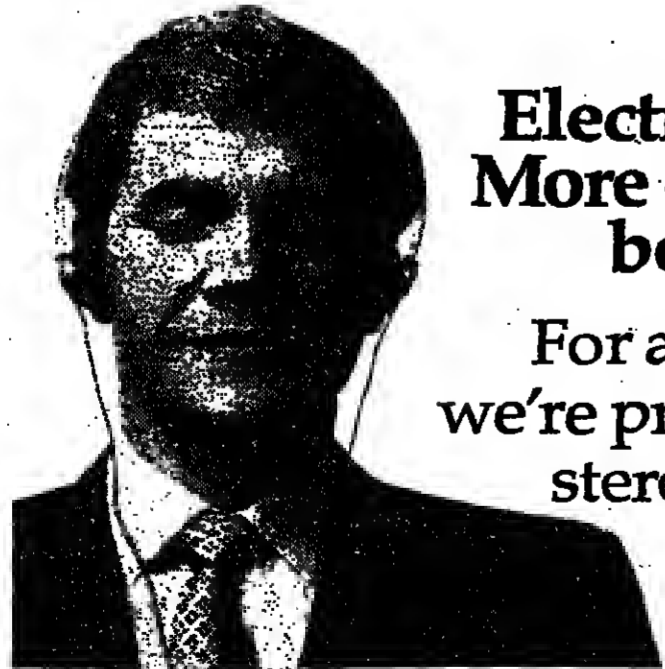
In the evening there is a free limousine to chauffeur you to your Manhattan hotel.

Every 747 has a well stocked cellar.

From service in the sky to service on the ground, Pan Am offer you so much more when you fly to the States.

The little things all add up to a bigger experience.

For more details call your Travel Agent, or Pan Am on 01-409 0688.



Pan Am. You Can't Beat The Experience.®

THE PROPERTY MARKET BY MICHAEL CASSELL

City blueprint set for big changes

CITY OF LONDON Corporation seems set to make major changes to its draft local plan, the controversial document designed to spell out development strategy in the Square Mile over the next 15 years.

Dr Keith Guggan, chairman of the City's planning committee, says that while 70 policy points included in the plan are expected to remain unaltered, 30 are likely to be changed and a few will disappear altogether. He adds: "There will be significant changes in some areas and modifications which will favour developers."

When it was published six months ago, the plan provoked waves of criticism from property owners, occupiers and developers, who claimed that its heavy emphasis on conservation threatened to stifle the City's role as a leading international financial centre.

But if Wednesday's decision by Mr Patrick Jenkin to kill off the Mansion House Square plan is being seen as a further hardening of attitudes towards development in the City, likely changes to the Corporation's draft document should go a long way towards restoring the balance and to satisfying some of its most vociferous critics.

The plan criticised the extent to which office space has been expanding at the expense of other sectors of the City's economy and set its sights on promoting economic diversity and a wide range of employment opportunities.

The document made it plain that the City planners would

resist the change of use of industrial and wholesaling space to offices and also envisaged a series of special policy areas. Within these, small businesses would be protected and the unification of large sites, in order to permit major development schemes, would be opposed.

Although the conservationist lobby generally approved of the City's approach, the document was seen as imposing restrictive by the property industry. The ensuing uproar has forced the Corporation to rethink its strategy and to consider around 1,200 points put to it during the extended consultation period. Proposed revisions to the draft plan, which should be presented to the City's Court of Common Council by the end of the summer recess, will clearly expose the change of heart.

It is understood that a radical approach to the question of plot ratios—which control the physical bulk of buildings—is likely to be included in the revised blueprint. The City's planners are aware that ratios within the City vary widely from one location to the next, are suggesting a "smoothing out" process which could include the transfer of ratio rights from one location to another.

In the same way that air rights above buildings and plot ratio entitlements are now regularly sold in the United States, to be exploited by the developers of adjoining buildings, the Corporation's planners believe that plot ratios in the

City could be sold off by property owners. The proposal would be particularly useful in transferring ratios from conservation areas to locations where development restrictions were less stringent. In this way, plot ratio policies could be relaxed without threatening conservation strategy.

It also appears as though the City is ready to reconsider its approach towards the concept of special policy areas and whether or not it should go out of its way to impose different development ground rules in order to protect traditional occupiers in locations like the fur trade area. Dr Guggan says the City is having to ask itself whether it should be seen to be protecting particular sectors, possibly at the expense of others.

In addition, there is evidence that the City's determination to maintain the widest commercial profile—in type and size of business activity—could be watered down. According to Dr Guggan: "There is recognition that the whole of the City can be supported and served by the adjacent boroughs. Some smaller occupiers may well have to consider moving further out."

The planning committee chairman has previously floated the "fundamental berries" that height restrictions around St Paul's Cathedral should be abandoned, so he can not easily be described as a hard-line conservationist. Even so, he supports the City's determination to preserve the best of its ancient

heritage: "The draft plan has crystallised and formalised the views we have expressed historically. The property industry fears that, with those views committed to paper, a planning committee which has been free to reach its own decisions and often overturned officers' recommendations would become much more constrained."

"There is some justification in their fears, which have been heightened by the revolution taking place in the City and the impact it will have on occupational requirements. Our task is to show a better understanding of their needs and to take them into account as we fix planning strategy for the years ahead."

● Average yields on commercial property have remained flat for the second quarter running, despite the prevailing high level of general interest rates, according to Hillier Parker May and Rowden.

The agents' all-property average yield stands at 7 per cent, against just over 5 per cent on prime investments. Prime shops stand at 3.5 per cent, offices at 4.75 per cent and industrial property at 7.5 per cent.

Hillier Parker reports no change in shop yields since last November, although there are some signs of upward movements at the prime end of the market in low yielding, high-rented major towns.

More New Town sales

THE Commission for the New Towns raised over £10.6m through commercial property sales in the first three months of 1985, bringing the total to just over £57m in its last financial year.

The biggest single sale was the former Bracknell Development Corporation's offices at Farley Hall for £2.6m. Sales to tenants—who are given first opportunity to buy—formed a large proportion of the deals.

Commenting on the sales, David Woodhall, chief executive of the Commission, said the momentum of sales was being maintained and that tenants were clearly appreciating the benefits of purchasing their own premises.

● Digital Equipment is to occupy 190 High Holborn, the 90,000 sq ft office building purchased four years ago for £24.5m by Kodak. The UK subsidiary of the world's second largest computer company is taking a 25-year lease at a figure below the asking rent of £1.45m and will spend £2m on fitting out. The UK arm of Kodak will move into a Euston Road building developed by the National Union of Railwaysmen.

Although Eastman Kodak, the U.S. parent, will lease back four floors at High Holborn on a three-to-five year lease, Teacher Marks acted for Kodak and Chertons represented Digital.

London office costs back on top

THE City of London has re-emerged as the most expensive office location in the world, according to a survey carried out by Richard Ellis, the agents and surveyors.

At the end of 1984, New York took top place in the international league of accommodation costs but, while rents there have since marginally weakened, those in the City have continued to firm up.

Ellis calculates that total occupation costs for prime office space in the Square Mile now stand at a little over £56 a sq ft. Service charges of 15 per cent

and rates of 55 per cent are added to a basic rent of £33 a sq ft, up by £1 a sq ft since the last survey—primarily because of lower availability of top-quality space.

In mid-town Manhattan, total costs of prime office accommodation have fallen back to under £33 a sq ft, having risen dramatically to around £37 a sq ft at the end of 1984.

The change in placings, still far and away the most expensive office markets in the world, is largely because of increasing caution in America's

financial and commercial capital, where tenants are proving reluctant to take large chunks of space. While rents have edged downwards, yields have started to rise.

There has been only a small change in the dollar rate of exchange since the previous survey, so this is not a major contributing factor. In the swing, Richard Sykes of Richard Ellis in New York says the mid-town office letting market has softened as tenants take more time to make up their mind. "The marginal fall in rents is probably only temporary," he adds.

Sunday trading boost for retail parks

"DEMAND for the growth of off-centre retailing cannot be stopped; it cannot even be contained; local authorities should meet this demand with a properly formulated plan."

Brian Read, commercial agency partner of Bernard Thorpe was echoing growing calls for a strategic approach to the rapid spread of retail warehousing and of warehousing parks when his firm this week published its study of the latest retailing phenomenon.

Thorpe sees the push coming from retailers, developers and the funding institutions and reckons there is plenty of evidence to suggest that local authorities are also beginning to accept retail parks—both in their capacity as landowners and planning authorities. The report emphasises, however,

that uncertainties remain, along with a lack of positive planning among authorities which could lead "to a plethora of isolated store developments that offer none of the advantages of a properly planned retail warehouse park."

The study defines such a park as an off-centre group of three or more stores selling primarily bulky, non-food goods, operating from prominently-sited, single storey, warehouse-type buildings with a common car park. One or more of the units will have at least 10,000 sq ft of selling area.

Thorpe notes the arrival of funds as active developers rather than reluctant sources of finance and cites Postel—advised by Thorpe—at the Aire-side Centre in Leeds and the

Prudential on part of the Macgill estate at Newport, Gwent.

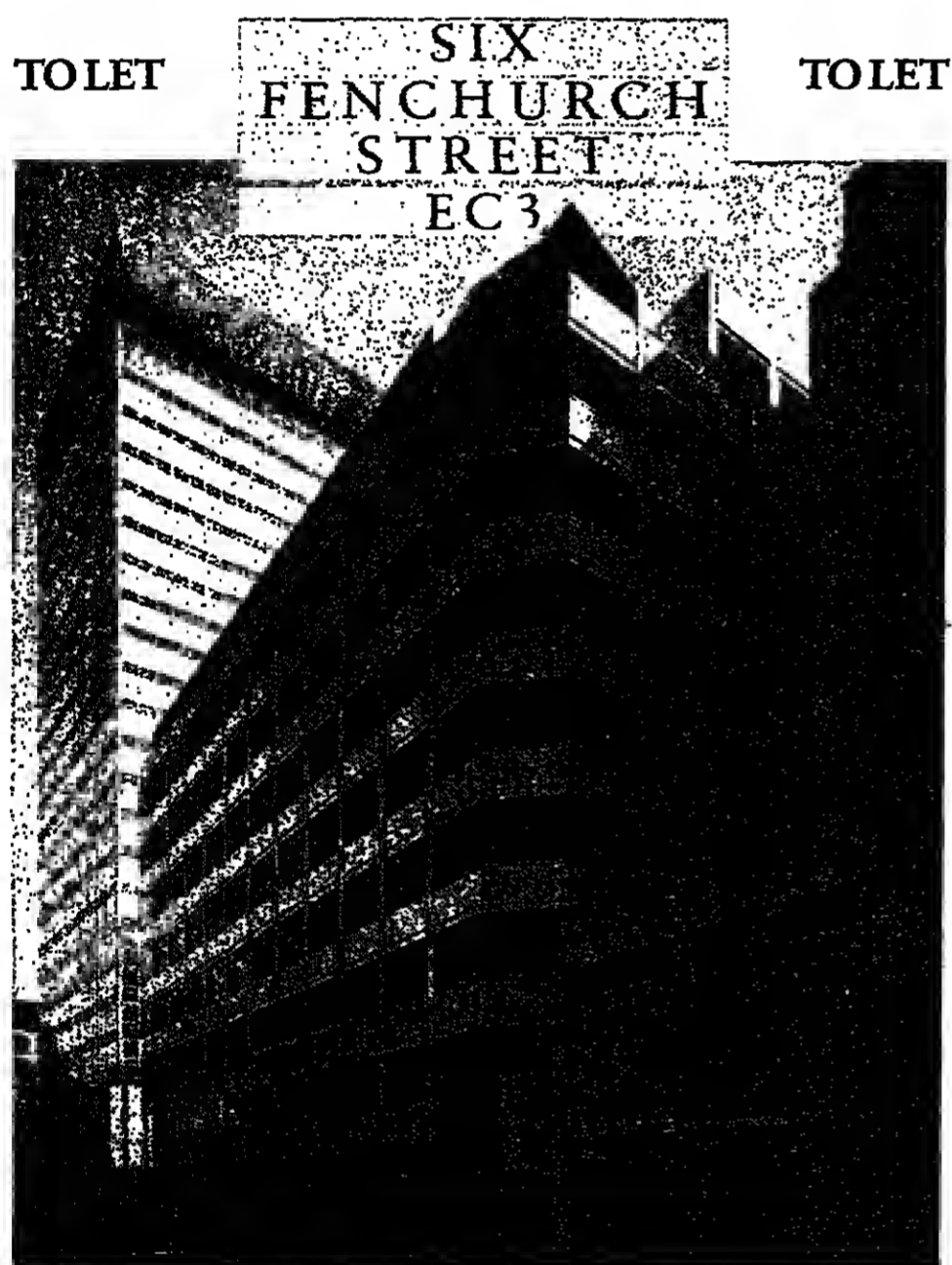
Peter Jones, author of the study—Retail Warehouse Parks—Approach to Planned Development—sees the prospects of Sunday trading as a major boost to retail parks, and envisages the next logical stage will involve parks providing fast-food outlets as another magnet to attract Sunday shoppers.

"Thorpe says that if park developments produce rewards for retailers in terms of increased turnover, then they can also produce rewards for developers and investors. The sting in the tail—a possible reduction in the demand from retailers for the traditional, one-off unit which could cast doubt over their occupational and investment value."

WILLIAM COCHRANE

TO LET

TO LET



52,500 sq. ft. of new, prime air-conditioned office space.

The building will be open for inspection between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Tuesday 21st May until Tuesday 11th June excluding Saturdays and Sundays and the Bank Holiday on Monday 27th May.

On the instructions of part of the Land Securities Group.

Sole agents

Edward Erdman Surveyors
23 College Hill London EC4
Telephone: 01-236 3611

Are you seeking to raise Finance from your Property Assets?

We have clients with substantial funds seeking Sale or Leaseback transactions or outright purchase of property and holding companies

All enquiries in strictest confidence to M.J. Cannifford, ARICS

EDWARDS SYMONS
S. PEARSON
65/67 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1DH

AVONMOUTH, BRISTOL

50,600 sq. ft.

single storey modern warehouse WITH YARD

Hodder Pritchard

Industrial department
82 Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RA
Telephone: Bristol 211511

For a limited period
LEASEHOLD From 99p/sq. ft.
FREEHOLD From £10.50/sq. ft.

LEASE OR FREEHOLD

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

King & Co
Chartered Surveyors
01-236 3000

1 SNOW HILL
LONDON EC1
London West End
Manchester
Leeds • Birmingham
Edinburgh • Newcastle

AYLESBURY

Single Storey Factory/
Warehouse and Offices
56,600 sq ft

To Let

LOW RENT, HIGH BUILDING

BORDON

8,200 sq ft
High Office content

To Let

IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION

BRISTOL

Prominent A4 Frontage
11,500 sq ft
Factory/Warehouse

LEASE FOR ASSIGNMENT

CROYDON

Industrial Sites
1-8 Acres
FOR SALE/TO LET

DUNSTABLE

WOODSIDE ESTATE
33,691 sq ft
Single Storey Warehouse

To Let

EDMONTON N18

£2.75 per sq ft
2.97 Acres
Industrial Site

TO LET—SHORT TERM

ENFIELD

7,500 sq ft
Factory & Offices
FOR SALE

ENFIELD

8,600 sq ft
Modern Factory/Warehouse

To Let

GILLINGHAM

6,900 sq ft
Factory/Warehouse

TO LET

AVAILABLE NOW

GUILDFORD

8,400 sq ft
New Factory/Warehouse Unit

TO LET

KENNINGTON SE5

Single Storey Factory
14,000 sq ft
Close Oval

FOR SALE—PRICE £125,000

LEWES

23,950 sq ft
Factory/Warehouse

To Let

CLOSE BY-PASS

LONDON NW10

High Specification Units
5,410-23,090 sq ft

To Let

COMPETITIVE RENTS

LONDON SE16

74,000 sq ft
Headquarters Distribution
Depot

TO LET

FREEHOLD COULD BE AVAILABLE

LUTON

Well fitted Warehouse/
Headquarters Building
29,000 sq ft

Incl 5,700 sq ft Offices

FREEHOLD/LEASEHOLD

OLD KENT ROAD, SE15

Warehouse
9,205 sq ft

TO LET

WALTHAM CROSS

Single Storey Warehouse
Premises

25,000 sq ft on 1 Acre

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

WOKINGHAM

Self Contained High
Specification Industrial/
Warehouse/Offices

35,000 sq ft

TO LET



Politics Today

Thatcher gets the wrong end of the stick

By Malcolm Rutherford

A FEW days in Washington can be quite instructive when trying to think about the future of British politics. There are, after all, similarities. Mr Reagan in his second term is a lame duck President. Yet what is notable in America is the way that the system has begun to adjust to that fact.

Congress has started to reassert itself. The President has been defeated on his budget proposals. The trade and budgetary deficits are now taken seriously. American defence spending will grow by less than 3 per cent a year in real terms, a point incidentally of some interest to Europeans who no longer expect to be lectured by Senator Sam Nunn of not doing enough about defence themselves.

The mood in America has changed: defence was an issue some years ago, so the administration spent more money on it and the country happily went along. Nowadays, however, the view is that the job has been done; the emphasis is more on talks with Russians and on spending—or saving—money for other purposes.

What is striking to the outsider is how easily the system adapts. Presidential power declines because of the finite nature of the second term. Congressional power arises in its place. Mr Reagan is such an astute politician that he almost claims personal credit for it. He will not go down with the ship because the ship is sinking.

At home it all looks rather different. No one should put too much weight on the opinion polls, though anyone who follows politics closely will not ignore them. Mr Marjolin in the Commons yesterday had the Conservatives in third place with 29 per cent of the vote. Labour and the Alliance had a joint lead of 35 per cent each.

There is unlikely to be another Falklands factor

It is said that much the same thing happened in 1981, and in a way it did. The Tory Party came back to win, although the Falklands war. Yet there are quite significant differences. Apart from the fact that there is unlikely to be another Falklands to the rescue act, it has become highly questionable how much longer the Falklands will continue to give the Government the benefit of the doubt over the economy. It is one thing to say, two years into office, that policies have not yet had time to work. It is quite another to be saying it four years later.

The funding of pensions

From Mr A. D. Wilkie
Sir,—In your leading article of May 18 discussing the funding of pensions, you state: "However the contract may be drawn up, the retired will be making a claim on the resources of the economy when they are retired." You almost seem to be encouraging the fallacy that the retired are wholly dependent on the generosity of the working population for their subsistence.

If a man (or woman) purchases a house and furnishes it during a working lifetime, he can enjoy this capital equipment, at no cost to others, during his retirement. If he has saved from his income, financing real capital formation, so that he was a substantial portfolio of stocks and shares at his retirement, he has a capital investment, the fruits of which he has an economic right, and in this country a legal right also to enjoy.

To argue that the capitalist, the shareholder, the holder of the interest stock, the building society depositor, has no moral right to his dividend or interest income is not a view I imagine you really wish to endorse.

The pensioner of a properly funded pension fund has a beneficial right, albeit indirectly, to a share of the underlying capital owned by the fund and to the investment income thereon. He is no more and no less dependent on the working population than the shareholder of any company is dependent on its employees. For most enterprises both capital and labour are required and they must co-operate to obtain satisfactory returns from their enterprise. Nowadays, the pensioners are the shareholders.

One of the themes of the report of a group of actuaries from City and Heriot-Watt Universities, "Pensions: The Problems of Today and Tomorrow," to which you refer in your leading article of May 21 and to which I contributed, is that the connection between investment returns and pension benefits should be made more explicit. Funding may finance real capital formation; pay-as-you-go cannot.

A related point is made by Mr David Barnett in his letter also of May 21. He suggests that entitlements under the state earnings related pension have the same validity as entitlements to government stock. It would indeed be possible to treat the payment of contributions by those contracted into the scheme as purchasing an entitlement to future benefits. The present value of this liability would then appear as part of government debt; interest would form part of

We shall come to Mrs Thatcher's speech to the Conservative Women's Conference on Wednesday in a paragraph or so. Meanwhile, it is hard to imagine any more bad news for a Government in the long term than the report that the University Grants Committee has written to vice-chancellors saying that the proposed cuts in higher education will amount to the equivalent of closing a university the size of Southampton every year.

Of course, the Government's Green Paper published this week did not quite say that. Not even Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, would go that far in his errors of presentation. But it came rather close to it. See, for example, paragraph 1.13: "It is not probable that some institutions of higher education will need to be closed or merged at some point during the next ten years."

To mitigate first. Anyone who has had anything remotely to do with universities will admit that there is a tendency to be inefficient, self-indulgent and parochial. A Marxist might say that they are an essential part of the English class system, and Sir Keith seems to approve the Marxist sentiment by arguing that they have been too much devoted to the liberal arts and not enough to developing entrepreneurship.

There is also the demographic argument. The structure of the population is changing: there are fewer young people and more candidates wanting to go to university later in life. All of that suggests the need for some adjustment.

Yet for a Government, particularly a rather intelligent Government like this one, to get into a position of appearing to attack universities is the depth of political folly. It cannot even admit that one purpose of going to university is pleasure—it is actually quite nice to read liberal arts—even if it tends in our present society to be pleasure confined to those who are already relatively advantaged.

There is worse still: far worse. Because the numbers are going down, the Government is proposing to cut places. There could be no clearer admission that after six years, of Mrs Thatcher's administration the country is still going backwards. More than 20 years on the Government cannot foresee as many places as Lord Robbins suggested in his report in 1963.

Not any longer does there seem to be any obligation to try. It is especially ironic that one of the reasons why the Government came to power in 1979 was that it had assiduously cultivated intellectual and academic opinion, and learned from it. As they rise, may they fall. An historian might note that it was in early 1985 that the Conservatives began to lose the intellectual argument.

So to Mrs Thatcher's speech to the Tory women and its most quoted passage. "Some of our critics, and fair weather friends," she said, "would like us to slow down a bit; to take stock; even to let a few sleeping dogs lie. 'Consolidate,' they say. 'Forget about radical reform.'"

"No. There are still too many tasks to be done, too many challenges to face. Some of them present us with immense difficulties. But this Government has never run away from long-term problems and we are not going to start now. And if we did, we wouldn't be worth respecting. We shall press forward with zeal, determination and confidence. This Government has work to do."

The Prime Minister has got the wrong end of the stick and is gripping it hard. Mrs Thatcher's best critics are not telling her to consolidate. They are telling her precisely the opposite. What they are saying is that the Government should get on with radical reform. And they are warning that there is a terrible danger that it is unable to see the wood for the trees.

There was a perfectly feasible way of reforming university financing. It was through a fund towards student loans rather than student grants. But who stopped that? It was the



Mrs Thatcher, addressing the Conservative women's conference in London this week

Prime Minister, who said that the idea went through mistaking when she was out of the country. Conservative middle class voters could not afford it and had written to their MPs to tell them. The episode was quite a comment on Mrs Thatcher's radicalism.

There are also ways of transferring resources to other sectors of the economy, or just cutting taxes: for instance, by ending the relief on mortgage interest rates. It is not the Chancellor of the Exchequer who is against that. It is the Prime Minister.

Moreover, one wonders how many people in retrospect would seek to justify the Government's attempt to abolish the Greater London Council and the metropolitan authorities, and the way it went about it. It wasted parliamentary time for about a year, stirred up the House of Lords and cross-bench opinion, and generally tarnished the Government's image.

Mrs Thatcher does not have all that much credit left to waste. That kind of thing tends to happen in most administrations after a period, almost to the extent that one queries why they never learn. The Wilson Government became bogged down in the House of Commons when it tried to reform the House of Lords in the late 1960s. Subsequent Labour governments went through a similar process with Scottish devolution in the

1970s. The present Government has been suffering exactly the same fate since last autumn with the abolition of the GLC.

The lesson should be crystal clear: never put to Parliament contentious measures involving the way government is run unless you really have to. All MPs have an opinion on them and most want to speak. So do the Lords. It wastes everyone's time and frays tempers, to no great purpose.

Much of the present debate in the Tory Party is about precisely that: how to keep the legislative proposals in the

A choice between radicalism and the status quo

next Queen's Speech relatively short. There is no point in tinkering with social security benefits or the rating system. The choice is between radicalism and the status quo.

For there is another way of looking at Mrs Thatcher's Government after six years: still rising unemployment, high interest rates and a continuing worry about the pound. Just like the old days, in fact. It would be silly to become involved in more unnecessary and troublesome legislation.

Lombard

Why India needs more aid

By Philip Stephens

AN IMPORTANT debate is going on within the Indian Government, important both for India and for the rest of the world.

While protectionist pressures in the West continue to strengthen, India is considering to what extent it can relax import controls as part of the drive to modernise its industry.

The scene was set in the March budget when Rajiv Gandhi announced a series of measures to ease restrictions on the import of some capital goods and high technology items. But the crucial decisions on how much further the Government can go are likely to be made in the next few months with the finalisation of the seventh five year plan for 1985-86 to 1989-90.

There are some powerful advocates for the argument that India must break with its insular past if its industry is to catch up with the advances in other newly-industrialised nations. Dr Abid Hussain, one of the architects of the liberalisation policy and now a member of the Planning Commission puts the case succinctly: "We must change gear, change pace and change direction."

The crunch will come, according to Dr Manmohan Singh, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission (Mr Singh is the chairman of the Liberalisation Commission). Increased imports are perceived to be displacing domestic resources and jobs rather than adding to them.

And this is where the West comes in. Its governments are calling on India to liberalise and at the same time are cutting back on development aid.

The World Bank estimates that India will receive about \$8bn of concessional finance during the 7th Plan, the same in nominal terms as in the previous five years, but a sharp drop in real terms. The refusal of the U.S. to agree to more than \$8bn as the 7th replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA)—the bank's soft loan affiliate—accounts for a significant proportion of the fall.

Washington's argument is that India should rely more on commercial borrowing, and it points to a queue of banks ready to oblige. But, as any aid official or banker will tell you, concessional and commercial borrowings are complementary, not substitutes for each other.

The more concessional aid India gets the more it can increase its capacity to carry commercial debt—and the more it can take risks with trade liberalisation. So, if the U.S. wants India and others like it to open up their economies it should look again at the role that aid can play as a catalyst in the process.

Letters to the Editor

government expenditure; and the automatically reinvested income together with new contributions each year would form part of government borrowing. If the accounting were done in this way Parliament and the people could assess whether or not the liability for the future were acceptable.

But the accounting has not been done this way. Current contributions have been used to pay current benefits, not to buy an entitlement to future benefits. Is it not therefore reasonable to assume that if Parliament were to approve the abolition of SERPS then all earnings related benefits might be abolished too, including both those in respect of past service for the existing workforce and those that current pensioners are now receiving? This is what a pay-as-you-go scheme means.

A. D. Wilkie, Consulting Acton, London Road, Reigate, Surrey.

Looking to San Francisco

From the President of the North Atlantic Assembly
Sir,—With reference to your correspondent's report on the North Atlantic Assembly in Stuttgart (May 20). As President I attended each of the five committees which discussed strategic defence initiative and I believe that there was a considerable majority in favour of assisting this American research project. There was, of course, some division of opinion but the matter will be resolved at our next Assembly in San Francisco, in October when strategic defence initiative will be the subject of plenary debate.

(Sir) Patrick Wall, MP, House of Commons, London SW1.

When you come to the crunch

From D. J. Harris
Sir,—How right J. R. Phelps is in his assertion (May 21) that pre-war potato crisps tasted better than those of today.

I well remember watching Surrey play Glamorgan at Swansea in 1939. My interest as a seven-year-old in the cricket was slight, although I was much impressed by F. R. Brown's multi-coloured cap (or was it E. R. T. Holmes?). What I did enjoy was prising

twopence out of my parents as often as possible and consuming bags of Smiths crisps. (Was there any other make in those days?) I realise now that the bags seemed so huge because I was so small, but there was no illusion about the taste.

As the potatoes have probably not changed much I presume the modern loss of flavour is because they are no longer fried in animal fat or dripping (fatty but dangerous), but in vegetable oil (tasteless but safe).

The same thing happened to the baked bean. It used to be small, of a delicate apricot hue and tasted of something. Nowadays it is larger, rather soggy, dull in colour and tastes of nothing. Why?

D. J. Harris, 6 Brendon Drive, Esher, Surrey.

...and the flavour

From Mr S. Hamilton

Sir,—My concern is over the plethora of new and artificial flavours in which the crisp is now available.

Have you ever waited interminably in a public house where the bar staff complete two circuits of the premises shouting the answers to the question: "What flavour crisps have you got?" and then waited as long again while a decision was made? The cost to the licensed and the retail trades in storage space, as well as time because of this phenomenon must be immense.

We have the solution, however, in theory if not yet in practice. Taking up the fine lead given by some in the confectionery trade, how long before the Pick 'n' Mix Crisp?

Stuart Hamilton (Anglia), 23 St Andrews Street, Cambridge.

Employee offers for the buses

From R. Oakeshott
Sir,—The logic of management buy-outs differs profoundly from that of employee buy-outs. It was therefore deeply misleading for David Mitchell to imply the contrary as he did, if he was correctly reported, in his comments about the future of the National Bus Company (NBC) during the final Commons stages of the Transport Bill.

When management buy-outs take place the chief objective of both the managers who lead them and the financial institu-

tions which back them is nearly always to secure substantial capital gains in the medium term. But it will only rarely be possible for these gains to be realised unless there is a market flotation or a sale to a third party. Thus the end result of a management buy-out is likely to be and is normally intended to be a move to a conventional capitalist ownership structure of external shareholder owners.

By contrast the main objective of an employee buy-out is to bring into existence and then maintain a new class of owners of business of which not outsiders but the employees (and in principle all the employees) are the main shareholders. Of course those employee owners will not be averse to capital gains. But characteristically they will be prepared to accept smaller capital gains.

In the case of the bus industry, whether we are talking about what is now NBC or whether, for example, what are still the direct labour undertakings of local authorities, there remain formidable obstacles which are likely to inhibit employee buy-outs. But there is at least one which could be substantially eased when the Transport Bill moves on to the Lords.

If, as in the pioneering employee buy-out of the National Freight Consortium (NFC) three years ago, shares are offered mainly to employees but also on a minority basis, to management buy-outs, then the offer of sale will be subject to all the "prospectus" rules embodied in the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

It is common knowledge that the NFC prospectus went through more than 20 drafts and its cost can be all too easily imagined. It is simply absurd to imagine that one of the operating subsidiaries of NBC, or a municipal bus undertaking, will have resources to meet the requirements of the 1958 legislation.

There is a real need for amendments to the Transport Bill in the Lords which would largely exempt share offers of bona fide attempts to engineer employee buy-outs in the bus industry from the provisions of the 1958 Act.

But none of this is likely to happen so long as Ministers and others continue to confuse employee buy-outs and management ones. On the other hand if it does not happen we will have missed one of the most important opportunities for extending employee ownership in this decade.

If ministers settle for selling the bus industry to a mixture of managers and corporate buyers it will be a classic case, in Mr Toth's phrase, of preferring the "easy option."

Robert Oakeshott, 5, Poland Street, London, W1.

Getting on with the job.

Continued achievement in 1984

Last year we disbursed £109m, almost as much as in the two preceding years put together.

■ **What did you do with it?**
We invested in agricultural projects in developing countries around the world, by no means all those countries being Commonwealth members.

■ **Where did you find the money?**
We are funded by loans from HM Government and by returns on our investments made with those loans.

■ **Effective?**
We think so: from an operating surplus of £51m we repaid £25m in maturing loans, two figures impressively surpassing those for 1983.

■ **What next?**
With new commitments of £101m, our main challenge is to continue to find effective investment opportunities. Of that sum, we last year more than met our target to invest half in renewable natural resources.

Thanks to us, many more people help themselves and, by so doing, enable us to help many more people.

■ **So what is your secret?**
No secret—good management and effective deployment of resources. The full story is in our report, yours for the asking at the clip of the coupon.

Need we say more?



Commonwealth Development Corporation
33 Hill Street, London W1A 3AR



To: Commonwealth Development Corporation
Please send me a free copy of the 1984 CDC Report. (NO CASH PLEASE)

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Nature of business _____

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Glico hard hit by blackmail campaign

By Yoko Shibata in Tokyo

EKAZI GLICO, Japan's leading confectionery maker, yesterday reported annual results which showed the severe blow made by last year's campaign by unidentified extortionists who threatened to poison the company's products with cyanide.

Pre-tax profits plummeted 67.3 per cent to ¥3.9bn (\$15.5m) in the year to March. At the net level a 79.6 per cent plunge left earnings of ¥1.23bn, on turnover 20 per cent lower at ¥96.16bn.

The bizarre events began last March when blackmailers kidnapped Mr Katsuhisa Esaki, Glico's president, and demanded ¥1bn. The ransom was not paid and Mr Esaki escaped. But then attempts began to poison Glico chocolates.

The company set aside ¥1.55bn for extraordinary losses.

For the current year the company forecasts a recovery in sales to ¥110bn.

Buoyant U.S. trading boosts Mitsui & Co

BY OUR TOKYO STAFF

THREE OF Japan's top trading companies, which sell everything from noodles to rockets throughout the world, all reported marked improvements in earnings for the year ended March, largely thanks to a buoyant U.S. economy.

Nonetheless, the three companies—Mitsubishi Corporation, Sumitomo Corporation and Itochu Corporation—unanimously expect a slowdown in the growth of the U.S. economy in the current year, with little or no growth in profits expected for the year to next March.

Mitsui & Co, Japan's third largest trading company, fared the best of the three, reporting a 17.6 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to ¥39.9bn on sales up 6.7 per cent to ¥14,900bn. Gross margins at Mitsui were also the best of the three, at 1.52 per cent, a slight improvement on the previous year.

Net profits were down, however, at ¥3.19bn against ¥8.17bn, or ¥5.27 a share compared with ¥8.26. This followed extraordinary provisions,

notably for its involvement in the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical project in Iran.

Mitsubishi Corp, the largest of the trading houses, showed a respectable 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to ¥51.7bn on sales of ¥16,437bn, up 9.3 per cent. Net earnings were ¥23.16bn (¥16.49 a share) against ¥20.32bn (¥15.93).

In addition to the strong U.S. economy, Mitsubishi executives said yesterday a marked improvement in its domestic businesses, such as steel trading, had helped to boost profits.

Domestic activities are more profitable than its export and import businesses.

Sumitomo Corp, which ranks among the trading companies, reported a 7.4 per cent increase at the pre-tax level to ¥45.5bn, on sales up 13.3 per cent to ¥13,165bn. Net earnings were ¥20.88bn, or ¥13.13 per share (¥20.3).

Both Sumitomo and Mitsubishi suffered some erosion of their gross margins last year.

Hong Kong publisher shifts base to Australia

By Lachlan Drummond in Sydney

MISS SALLY AW, the Tiger Balm heiress, has announced moves to shift ownership of her Sing Tao newspaper group from Hong Kong to Australia in an A\$45m (U.S.\$31.1m) deal.

The switch of domicile will be executed through a takeover of Sing Tao by Cereus of Australia, a stock exchange listed corporate shell in which Miss Aw bought a 75 per cent stake last November.

In Sydney yesterday Miss Aw, in response to questions about why she felt it necessary to leave Hong Kong, said only that her business empire had become more internationally orientated and that Australia was a good place to set up.

However, her political sympathies are thought to have driven her to shift her base from Hong Kong ahead of the 1997 handover to China. She has been building property interests in Australia for some time, part of which are to be transferred to Cereus.

Cereus will complete the deal through a scheme of arrangement which will see A\$28.5m of cash paid for Sing Tao, with shareholders getting a further A\$6.6m through an issue of shares in a Sing Tao subsidiary, Cincus.

Miss Aw's 78.22 per cent stake in Sing Tao will be bought for HK\$7.50 (US\$0.97) a share plus HK\$1.50 in Cincus shares while other shareholders will be traded for HK\$11.50 a share plus a Cincus share at A\$1.50.

Another related Australian company, Ariadne Australia, is to take the Aw interest in Cincus—which is to be listed in Hong Kong with HK\$35m of cash and securities as its sole assets—for HK\$2.06 a share. A general offer will then be made provided Cincus shareholders first agree to taking a 49 per cent stake in a subsidiary of an associate of Ariadne.

In the process of transferring the interest from Hong Kong to Australia, Miss Aw will be liberating something more than A\$25m from her Sing Tao investment. While the purchase by Cereus will be funded in part by share placements requiring around A\$3m from the Aw interest, the bulk of Cereus' funding will be through an issue of debt like redeemable preference shares.

Reuters adds from Sydney: John Fairfax, the Australian media group, said it would not accept a bid for David Syme and Co, publisher of the Melbourne Age, launched by Robert Holmes à Court's Bell Group. Syme is valued at A\$144m.

Japan's top electronics groups show sharp gains

BY CARLA RAPOPORT

HITACHI, Toshiba and Mitsubishi Electric, three of the world's largest electronics companies, yesterday reported sharply improved profits for the year to March on the back of surging exports, notably to the U.S. and China.

Hitachi, the largest of the three, pushed up parent company pre-tax profits by 37 per cent to ¥256bn (\$1.02bn) on sales up 14 per cent to ¥3,028bn. Hitachi said its shipments of semiconductors rose by almost 70 per cent in the year.

Mitsubishi Electric showed a dramatic 53.2 per cent gain in pre-tax profits to ¥85bn on sales up 17 per cent to ¥1,858bn. Sales were led by the strong export performance of the company's semiconductors, computers and office automation equipment, as well as healthy domestic sales.

Toshiba, Japan's second

largest electrical company, also reported a strong profit increase, but said that domestic demand for heavy electrical plant equipment added to the gains realised from its export advances. Toshiba's pre-tax profits went up 38 per cent in the year to ¥144bn e sales of ¥2,526bn, e 25 per cent increase.

A Toshiba official said yesterday that overall exports to China jumped from ¥20bn in 1983-84 to ¥100bn last year. China exports are expected to reach ¥150bn in the current year. In the semiconductor market, Toshiba's sales increased by 55 per cent last year to ¥435bn.

All three companies predicted a marked slowdown in growth in electronic components for the current year, largely because of slower demand for all but the newest semiconductors. Toshiba, for example, predicts a 15 per cent drop in its semiconductor

sales to ¥500bn. The group plans a ¥148bn investment in expanding its semiconductor capacity this year.

All three companies also expect their profits growth to slow in the current year, in line with the slowdown expected in the U.S. economy. Mitsubishi Electric and Hitachi are the most conservative, forecasting 4 or 5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the current year with sales up by around the same percentage. Toshiba, however, is mildly more optimistic, forecasting a 12 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to ¥2.8bn and an 8.3 per cent increase in sales.

Net profits for Hitachi in the latest year were ¥105.4bn (¥28.4bn) or ¥37.60 a share (¥28.78); for Mitsubishi Electric ¥94.5bn (¥24.4bn) or ¥21.19 (¥17.83) a share; and for Toshiba ¥65.5bn (¥24.4bn) or ¥24.53 a share (¥19.00).

Steady advance by Asahi Chemical

By Jurek Martin in Tokyo

ASAHI CHEMICAL, the diversifying textile manufacturer which has been the hottest stock on the Tokyo Stock Exchange this year, has reported fiscal year results well in line with market expectations.

In the year which ended in March, the parent company made pre-tax profits of ¥35.32bn (\$141.79m), up from ¥26.82bn, on sales of ¥765.89bn against ¥706.46bn.

For the current year, it cautiously forecasts only a slight increase in profits to ¥36bn, on sales of ¥810bn.

Asahi Chemical has been in the investor spotlight, with its share price rising by about 60 per cent over the past three months, because of reports of its research work into tumour necrosis factor (TNF), an anti-cancer agent. However, this has yet to contribute to sales or profits.

Its current strong suits remain synthetic resins, rubber and housing materials, the increase in sales of which more than offset a levelling off in textiles, brought about by sluggish rayon exports.

At the net level, earnings emerged at ¥14.01bn or ¥12.26 a share, compared with ¥11.12bn or ¥10.20 a share.

Two other diversifying textile concerns also reported better than expected returns yesterday. Mitsubishi Rayon and Teijin both appear to have pursued successful cost-cutting exercises because both noticeably improved their profit margins.

Mitsubishi Rayon earned ¥10.52bn (¥8.40bn) before tax on sales of ¥221.01bn (¥215.97bn). Teijin's taxable profits came to ¥27.71bn (¥20.35bn) on sales of ¥431.96bn (¥425.32bn). Both forecast modest improvements

BEAR STEARNS

Durakool Corp.

has sold all of its assets to

American Electronic Components, PLC

We initiated this transaction and acted as financial advisor to Durakool Corp.

Bear, Stearns & Co.

New York/Atlanta/Boston/Chicago/Dallas/Los Angeles/San Francisco
Amsterdam/Geneva/Hong Kong/London/Paris

April 1985

National Australia Bank ahead

BY OUR SYDNEY CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA Bank has rounded off the interim profit reporting season for the country's private sector banks with a 32 per cent surge in net earnings to A\$144.9m (U.S.\$100.3m) in the six months to March, up from A\$109.5m.

The rate of increase is the largest of the three big private banks and the net total, strips that of its larger rival, the ANZ, which turned in a pedestrian A\$140m total as it digested its acquisition of Grindlays in the UK.

National Australia attributed

its improved result to growth in trading and savings bank deposits and lending, strong demand for housing finance which offset lower margins in the saving bank area and offshore expansion.

Additionally, strict control of costs and the funds from a convertible note issue last August helped, the bank said.

Mr Nobby Clark, deputy chief executive, indicated that the growth rate should be maintained for the full year but that the year would be some-

thing of a landmark for the bank ahead of the arrival of foreign competitors as fully licensed banks.

The final half will include some first-time benefits from recent deregulation moves on interest rate dealings on small amounts.

The result came as gross income rose from A\$149m to A\$182m and interest costs grew by 25 per cent from A\$247.3m to A\$306.6m.

The dividend is being lifted from 12.5 cents to 13.5 cents a share.

Carter Holt earnings up 55%

BY DAI HAYWARD IN WELLINGTON

CARTER HOLT, the New Zealand timber and exporting company which is currently engaged in New Zealand's largest-ever takeover—the NZ\$551m acquisition of Alex Harvey Industries, the packaging company—has recorded NZ\$38m net profits for the year to March, up 55 per cent.

Carter Holt outmanoeuvred ACI International of Australia for control of Alex Harvey. It has obtained 28.5 per cent

acceptance from shareholders. With the agreed acquisition of ACI's 58.6 per cent holding, Carter Holt now has 84.1 per cent acceptance from AHI share holders.

Its 55 per cent jump in profit was boosted by the lower value of the New Zealand dollar and through big demands for its exports of fish, timber, woodpulp and woodchips to Australia.

Its Australian subsidiary, Southern Australian Perpetua Forests, recorded a better

result than expected, partly because of its efforts to convert fire-damaged trees to commercially saleable timber products.

Export sales were up by 41.4 per cent to NZ\$187m, providing 40 per cent of total sales which increased 44 per cent to NZ\$426m.

A final dividend of 6.5 cents a share is declared, making a total dividend of 12 cents a share, plus a 2 cents a share bonus for the year. Dividends are tax free.

JAPANESE RESULTS

FUJI ELECTRIC

ELECTRIC MACHINERY

Year to	Mar. '85	Mar. '84
Revenues (bn)	381	355
Pre-tax profits (bn)	10.26	8.45
Net profits (bn)	8.89	4.29
Net per share	12.00	8.75
Dividend	5.00	5
PARENT COMPANY		

FUJI PHOTO FILM

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRODUCTS

Half year to	Apr. '85	Apr. '84
Revenues (bn)	317	274
Pre-tax profits (bn)	60.48	44.71
Net profits (bn)	27.58	21.41
Net per share	74.80	67.96
Dividend	6.25	6.25
PARENT COMPANY		

MITSUBISHI ESTATE

OFFICE LEASING

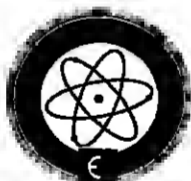
Year to	Mar. '85	Mar. '84
Revenues (bn)	192	186
Pre-tax profits (bn)	42.84	36.14
Net profits (bn)	20.53	18.42
Net per share	19.18	17.88
Dividend	6.50	6.25
PARENT COMPANY		

The Republic of Italy
U.S.\$500,000,000
Floating Rate Notes
due 2005

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the interest period from 24 May, 1985 to 24 June, 1985 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 7 7/8% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 24 June, 1985 will be US\$67.81 per US\$10,000 nominal amount and will be paid only through Citicorp SA and Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Brussels Office, as operator of the Euroclear System, in accordance with the terms of the Temporary Global Note.

24 May, 1985.
The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
London, Agent Bank.

All these Bonds have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

European Atomic Energy Community
(Euratom)

ECU 50,000,000

10 per cent. Bonds due 1997

Al-Mal Group

Société Générale de Banque S.A./Generale Bankmaatschappij N.V.

Abu Dhabi Investment Company
Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V.
Banca Commerciale Italiana
Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.
Crédit Commercial de France
Kredietbank International Group

Alahli Bank of Kuwait K.S.C.
Al Saudi Banque ASB
Bank Brussel Lambert N.V.
Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft
Gulf International Bank B.S.C. Capital Markets Group
Union de Banques Arabes et Françaises - U.B.A.F.

Amro International Limited
Banque du Benelux S.A.
Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A.
Banque Paribas Capital Markets
Compagnie de Banque et d'Investissements, CBI
Crédit Général S.A. de Banque
Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft
Lloyds Bank International Limited
Nederlandse Credietbank N.V.
Société Générale
Soditic (Jersey) Limited

Banca Mannsard & C.
Banque Degroot S.C.S.
Banque de l'Union Européenne
Crédit Industriel d'Alsace et de Lorraine
Enskilda Securities Skandinaviska Enskilda Limited
Mitsubishi Finance International Limited
Pierson, Helderling & Pierson N.V.
Société Nationale de Crédit à l'Industrie/Nationale Maatschappij voor Krediet aan de Nijverheid
S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Bank Ippa
Banque Française du Commerce Extérieur
Banque de Luxembourg S.A.
Crédit Communal de Belgique S.A./Gemeentekrediet van België N.V.
S.A. Dewin N.V.
Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino
Nederlandse Middenstandsbank N.V.
Rabobank Nederland
Verband Schweizerischer Kantonalbanken

Bank Mees & Hope N.V.
Banque Indosuez
Banque Nationale de Paris
Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations
Crédit Lyonnais
Nederlandsche Middenstandsbank N.V.
Rabobank Nederland
Verband Schweizerischer Kantonalbanken

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.



(Incorporated with limited liability under the New South Wales Companies Act, 1961)

U.S. \$100,000,000

Transferable Revolving Underwriting Facility
for the Issuance of
Certificates of Deposit

Arranged by

Merrill Lynch Capital Markets

Managing Underwriters

BankAmerica Capital Markets Group

Citicorp International Bank Limited

Commerzbank (South East Asia) Limited

Dai-ichi Kangyo International Limited

First Chicago Limited

IBJ International Limited

The Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia

Saitama International (Hong Kong) Limited

Taiyo Kobe Finance Hongkong Limited

Chemical Bank International Group

NMB Bank (Singapore) Ltd.

Principal Placing Agent

Merrill Lynch Capital Markets

May 1985

New Issue - March 22, 1985

Miners' strike and mild weather depress Milletts

Milletts Leisure Shops yesterday blamed the miners' strike and the mild early winter weather for a full-year taxable loss of £368,000.

The strike affected trading throughout the year, particularly in the north of England, says Mr Alan Millett, the chairman. And the mild weather which lasted until after Christmas "was not helpful to trading in what is our busiest period."

The losses, compared to profits of £437,000, were below the company's expectations and the market knocked 50p off the share price to 145p.

Shareholders of this leisurewear retailer are having their final dividend cut by 75 per cent to 1p, which leaves the total at 3.95p against 6.95p. This is again uncovered with Milletts showing an attributable loss of £317,000, up from £182,000.

However, they are told that the board is confident that, with normal trading conditions following the end of the strike, there will be a return to profitability.

Operating margins in the year to January 28 1985 were severely reduced with higher turnover of



Mr Alan Millett

£230.00m, compared with £20.00m, producing an operating profit halved at £630,000.

The taxable result was struck after depreciation of £667,000 (£599,000), interest payable of £434,000 (£381,000), and included

a surplus on fixed asset disposals of £75,000 (£9,000).

The loss per 20p share was 6.3p (earnings 4.8p) pre-extraordinary items.

During the year Milletts purchased Lewis Enterprises (Genta Wear), which traded satisfactorily and is earmarked for expansion, and 63 shops from Wakefields Stores.

"We are today a very much larger company than at any time in our history," says Mr Millett. However, he says there is still a good deal more work to be done to integrate fully the Wakefields shops.

The integration and rationalisation of these shops brought about an extraordinary provision of £470,000 (£54,000).

Milletts also acquired from Blank of Edgworth its 50 per cent interest in Millets Shops Scotland and the eight shops are now wholly owned.

Notations are well advanced for the disposal of a number of surplus properties which, the chairman says, will substantially reduce borrowings.

"We believe these actions are laying a firm base for the future growth of the company," he says.

Cater Allen suffers setback in second half

Cater Allen Holdings yesterday joined the ranks of discount houses that have reported lower profits for the latest full year's trading.

After reporting a substantial improvement at midway, Cater experienced a setback in the second half which reduced the 1984/85 outcome by 5 per cent from £3.52m to £3.71m. This was after providing for rebate, tax and a transfer to contingency reserves.

Dividend held

Despite this, however, the dividend total for the year to April 30 is being held at 28.875p through an unchanged final dividend of 28.875p on the enlarged rights capital.

Capital and disclosed reserves at the year-end amounted to £32.07m compared with £22.05m a year previously. Total of balance sheet assets was £1.79m against £1.44m.

comment

Cater Allen has picked a nimble path through this year's troubled discount market to come out with after-tax profits only a shade down on last year's level. The out-turn compares well not only with some smaller houses, including Clive Discount, which were hit so badly by the sudden increase in interest rates in January that they reported losses for the year, but revealed a near 50 per cent profit fall earlier this week. The City rewarded Cater Allen with a 13p jump in the share price to 538p, where the yield is 7.7 per cent against Gerrard's 5.5 per cent. The gap reflects the market's thoughts about the relative sizes of the two houses, rather than their recent performance. Clearly the City is concerned that there will be little room for smaller houses like Cater Allen when the gilt market is opened up to the big banks. Cater Allen is keen to stay independent and prove the pundits wrong.

Maynards begins to see benefits of re-organisation

Maynards, the confectionery manufacturer and toy retailer, is beginning to reap the benefits of its reorganisation. Although the effects were only partially reflected in the result for the first half to the end of February 1985, sales excluding VAT rose by 5 per cent from £22.94m to £24.1m.

Trading profit was down by £64,000 to £1.47m, but after the repayment of £150,000 of overpaid VAT, pre-tax profits showed a rise of 7 per cent from £1.53m to £1.64m.

The chairman, Mr Robert Ramsdale, expects the reorganisation to be completed by the end of the year.

All of the company's confectionery, tobacco and newsgate shops have been sold, but most of the freehold properties, as well as some of the leasehold, have been retained and sublet at commercial rent. These will form Maynards' new property division, the full benefits of which will not appear until the next financial year. However the divisions contributed profits in the first six months of £61,000.

The closure of the confectionery manufacturing factory at Crawley, Sussex, and the transfer of most of its capacity to the company's North London factory was completed last month. Lower overheads and improved use of

labour is being achieved already. The acquisition of a small confectionery manufacturing company, with a product range complementary to that of Maynards, is being completed at the moment.

The Zodiac toy retailing subsidiary managed to maintain its own range of products. That was achieved despite considerable price competition.

New shops have been opened in Liverpool, Southampton, Bristol, Brighton and Newbury. Further outlets, each with a sales area of 6,000 sq ft, in line with the company's moves to have larger retail units, will be opened in Portsmouth, Bursley and Kings Lynn.

Mr Ramsdale says that with an enlarged range of summer and activity toys and increasing display opportunities the chain's quality continues to improve as does its performance throughout the year. He anticipates an improved second half for the division.

The interim dividend is maintained at last year's 4.25p. The share price closed at 320p, which was 5p down on the day but still 70p above that offered by Mr Lew Carter in his partial bid which the company successfully fought off at the beginning of last year.

Weeks Associates betters forecast with £186,000

TAXABLE PROFITS £6,000 ahead of forecast at £185,881, a strategy for expansion by building on the success of the distribution activities and moving into new areas, are announced by Weeks Associates for its continuing companies.

Results for the 53 weeks to February 3 1985 include the effects of the appointment late last year of a receiver to the Weeks Trailers subsidiary. Also excluded are pre-tax losses of £284,123, attributable to Trailers, and extraordinary charges.

The group's continuing operations—rubber products distribution and engineering equipment—achieved a turnover of £2.7m compared with £2m previously.

Mr Wilfred Airey, the chairman, says that the distribution division responded to re-organisation with an 84 per cent increase in profits on sales up 24 per cent. In the engineering division, he says action had been taken to deal with lower trading

levels and eroded margins, but profitability had declined in 1984-85.

He says that in the current financial year, emphasis is being placed on expanding in-house manufacturing operations, further development of the distribution network and the introduction of new products.

"Profits are predicted to rise in a slowly improving trading environment, and the division looks forward to an on-going and stable growth," he says. Generally, Mr Airey says that although engineering market conditions will continue to be very competitive, prospects for the group are "not discouraging."

A final dividend of 0.1p (0.4p) is being paid, this being the only payment for the year. Dividends absorb £10,429 compared with £41,715. There was a stated loss per share of 2p against earnings of 2.1p last time.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange.

CHARLIE BROWNS CAR PART CENTRES plc

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Act 1948 No 851284)

Share Capital
Ordinary shares of 10p each
Authorised: £750,000
Issued and to be issued fully paid: £600,000

Placing by
Rensburg & Co
of 1,799,090 Ordinary shares of 10p each
at 76p per share

Charlie Browns Car Part Centres plc operates 33 retail outlets in the North of England; 30 are self-service supermarkets, selling a wide range of motor vehicle parts and accessories and providing fitting services for tyres, exhaust systems and other components.

A proportion of the Ordinary shares being placed are available to the public through the market during market hours on the day of publication.

Particulars of the Company are available in the Eitel Unlisted Securities Market Service and copies of such particulars may be obtained during usual business hours (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 14th June 1985 from:

Rensburg & Co
14-16 Queensgate, Bradford BD1 1RB
11 Park Square East, Leeds LS1 2NG

0274-729406
0532-434631

Wedlake Bell
16 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9HF
24th May 1985

VIMTO

In the year ended 31st December, 1984:

- Record post-tax PROFITS of J N NICHOLS (VIMTO) PLC of £2,583,000 compared with £2,246,000 last year.
- TURNOVER amounted to £19,492,000 against £19,429,000 in the previous twelve months.
- An increased final DIVIDEND 2.75p per share is recommended, making a total of 5.25p for the year, 16.7% above last year's 4.5p.

- In his statement with the Accounts, Mr Peter Nichols, the Chairman, says: "The canning factory at Southampton achieved a particularly high output, whilst we improved our bottling facilities at the Northern factories, with a marked result on efficiency and costs."
- "Our product range was increased by the introduction of Babi-Hi, sales of these cans being most successful. We are hoping for a similar success with our recently launched Mexicana. All in all, we are marketing and selling ever more effectively and look forward to 1985 with confidence."
- "The current year has started well, export sales being already 30% up on the same period last year, and I am confident that the results for 1985 will show a further expansion throughout the Group."

Registered Office: Ledson Road, Manchester M23 9NL

Plessey signals record orders



Three recent orders, worth about £200 million, have consolidated Plessey's international leadership in radar systems.

1984/85 Preliminary results

An extract from The Plessey Company's unaudited consolidated results.

	52 weeks ended 29 March 1985 £000	52 weeks ended 30 March 1984 £000
Sales	1,415,741	1,252,368
Operating profit	143,285	146,309
Profit before taxation	163,695	176,136
Profit before extraordinary items	95,544	112,045

If approved at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12 July 1985, the proposed final dividend of 2.57p per share will be paid on 1 November 1985. This dividend, together with the interim dividend already declared, will amount to a total dividend for the year of 4.375p per share.

Copies of the full Report and Accounts for 1984/85 will be posted to shareholders on 17 June 1985.

■ Sales £1,416 million

■ Pre-tax profit £164 million

■ Order book £1,605 million

The Plessey Company plc
Village Lane, Bford
Essex RG1 1AQ

PLESSEY

PLESSEY and the Plessey symbol are Registered Trade Marks of The Plessey Company plc

General Motors Acceptance Corporation

(Incorporated in the state of New York, United States of America)

U.S. \$200,000,000

10 1/4% Notes Due 1989

The following have agreed to purchase the Notes:

Merrill Lynch International & Co.

Arab Banking Corporation (ABC)	Bank of America International Limited
Crédit Lyonnais	Nomura International Limited
Orion Royal Bank Limited	Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Limited
Banca del Gottardo	Bank Brussel Lambert N.V.
Bankers Trust International Limited	Banque Générale du Luxembourg S.A.
Banque Nationale de Paris	County Bank Limited
Commerzbank	Dai-ichi Kangyo International Limited
Daiwa Europe Limited	Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank
Generale Bank	Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank
Girozentrale und Bank der österreichischen Sparkassen	Great Pacific Capital S.A.
Gulf International Bank B.S.C.	IBJ International Limited
Kuwait International Investment Co. s.a.k.	Mitsubishi Finance International Limited
Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale	Société Générale
Toronto Dominion International Limited	S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Application has been made to The Council of The Stock Exchange for the Notes, in the denomination of U.S. \$5,000 each, with an issue price of 100 per cent., to be admitted to the Official List. Interest on the Notes is payable annually in arrears on June 5, commencing on June 5, 1986.

Particulars of the Notes and the Issuer will be available in the statistical services of Eitel Statistical Services Limited. Copies of the listing particulars relating to the Notes may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the Company Announcements Office of the Quotations Department of The Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2BT, up to and including 29th May, 1985 or during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) at the addresses shown below up to and including 6th June, 1985:

Cazenove & Co.,
12, Tottenhouse Yard,
London, EC2R 7AN

Chemical Bank,
180, Strand,
London, WC2R 1ET

May 24, 1985

ay May 24 1985
TOPHER LOR...
basis
career
industry leader
Ambivalent
attitude
VW
W
All change
in switching
market
Z-TAT chip

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE 32-33
AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE 33-34
U.S. OVER-THE-COUNTER 34, 38
WORLD STOCK MARKETS 34
LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE 35-37
UNIT TRUSTS 39-41
COMMODITIES 42 CURRENCIES 43

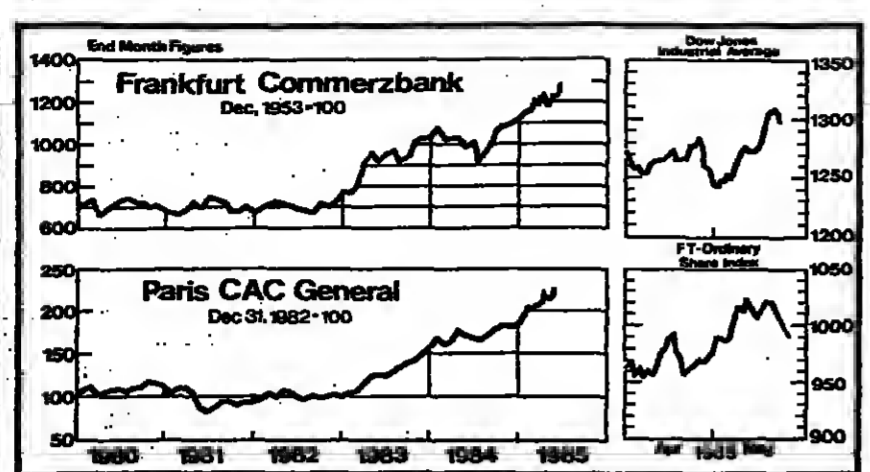
SECTION III - INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

FINANCIAL TIMES

Friday May 24 1985

31
U.S. farm groups
seek boost in
exports, Page 42

KEY MARKET MONITORS



NEW YORK	May 23	Previous	Year ago
DJ Industrials	1,296.71	1,303.76	1,113.80
DJ Transport	820.57	822.90	488.11
DJ Utilities	181.26	181.98	124.71
S&P Composite	187.80	186.56	153.15

LONDON	May 23	Previous	Year ago
FT-Ord	1,010.2	1,020.9	826.4
FT-SE 100	1,325.3	1,333.8	1,086.4
FT-Air-share	640.24	642.98	496.61
FT-A 500	702.25	705.49	542.89
FT Gold mines	478.8	484.9	633.7
FT-A Long gilt	10.77	10.74	10.87

TOKYO	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Nikkei-Dow	12,649.13	12,697.35	10,023.5
Tokyo SE	891.92	895.58	787.40

AUSTRALIA	May 23	Previous	Year ago
AS-Ord	887.4	888.5	694.4
Metals & Mins.	580.6	582.0	460.7

AUSTRIA	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Credit Aktien	96.01	95.03	54.81

BEELGIUM	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Belgian SE	2,276.99	2,253.85	1,811.10

CANADA	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Toronto	2,016.5	2,026.4	1,916.0
Composite	2,691.3	2,708.1	2,206.1
Montreal	131.87	132.96	106.28

GERMANY	May 23	Previous	Year ago
SE	n/a	190.36	187.68

FRANCE	May 23	Previous	Year ago
CAC Gen	226.4	223.1	173.3
Ind. Tendance	126.5	124.2	89.0

WEST GERMANY	May 23	Previous	Year ago
FAZ-Alkden	442.38	439.29	348.40
Commerzbank	1,294.5	1,285.9	1,015.3

HONG KONG	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Hang Seng	1,617.30	1,599.54	912.15

ITALY	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Banca Com.	n/a	319.84	208.70

NETHERLANDS	May 23	Previous	Year ago
ANP-CBS Gen	209.5	208.5	161.3
ANP-CBS Ind	169.9	170.2	128.3

NORWAY	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Osto SE	336.11	339.57	263.76

SINGAPORE	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Straits Times	820.98	822.45	928.57

SOUTH AFRICA	May 23	Previous	Year ago
JSE Golds	1,074.6	942.8	842.8
JSE Industrials	970.7	976.9	876.9

SPAIN	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Madrid SE	111.25	111.33	85.26

SWEDEN	May 23	Previous	Year ago
J & P	n/a	1,393.32	1,442.69

SWITZERLAND	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Swiss Bank Ind	434.7	434.3	367.2

WORLD	May 23	Previous	Year ago
Capital Int'l	211.8	212.2	177.9

COMMODITIES	May 23	Previous	Year ago
(London)	May 23	Prev	Year ago
Silver (spot fixing)	439.45p	438.40p	438.40p
Copper (cash)	£1,203.50	£1,210.50	£1,210.50
Coffee (July)	£2,114.50	£2,082.50	£2,082.50
Oil (spot Arabian light)	\$26.625	\$26.575	\$26.575

GOLD (per ounce)	May 23	Previous	Year ago
London	\$315.75	\$316.75	\$316.75
Zurich	\$315.50	\$316.75	\$316.75
Paris (fixing)	\$315.27	\$317.49	\$317.49
Luxembourg	\$315.25	\$317.25	\$317.25
New York (June)	\$316.10	\$316.15	\$316.15

WALL STREET

Conflicting views on outlook

WALL STREET clung by its finger ends to its recent new peaks as clashes in the House of Representatives over the budget proposals gave fresh cause for investment uncertainty. With opinions again divided on the outlook for interest rates and Federal Reserve policies, bond prices tumbled. The stock market suffered renewed profit-taking which quickly drove the Dow average below 1300 again, writes Terry Byland in New York.

The market was on the downside throughout the session, although it edged above the Dow 1300 mark a couple of times - albeit briefly. At the close, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was a net 7.05 points down at 1296.71, turnover remained high.

The division of opinion among investors was displayed by conflicting views expressed by Dr Henry Kaufman, of Salomon Bros, who believes the economy is recovering fast, and Mr Preston Martin of the Federal Reserve, who is worried that growth may be too slow.

In the credit market, hopes of a second cut in the discount rate abated for a while - Dr Kaufman rejected such suggestions emphatically in his address to a savings industry convention. Federal funds slipped back below 8 per cent again and money market and Treasury bill rates showed little change from overnight.

In the stock market, there was some disappointment at the struggle to hold on to the Dow 1300 mark - regarded as a significant benchmark of bullish sentiment. At mid-session, the Dow had edged above 1300 again, but the recovery was somewhat lacking in conviction.

Stock in Gulf Canada fell 1/4 to \$13 1/4 ahead of the purchase by Olympia and York of the stake held by Chevron at \$22.21 for a total \$2.5bn. The NYSE active stocks list was headed by the when issued Unocal stock, which added 1/4 to \$34 1/4.

In the aerospace-defense sector, General Dynamics stood out again with a rise of 1 1/4 to \$72 1/4 on the market's hope that the navy's ban on new contracts with the company will be resolved when the new chairman takes over.

Three Wall Street brokerage firms recommended General Dynamics stock to clients, on the view that the bad news is now out of the way and the fall in the stock has been overdone.

Boeing added 5/8 to \$83 1/4 after All Nippon Airways ordered jet airliners and Lockheed at \$50 were 3/4 better. But some other defense issues showed slower after reports reached Wall Street of struggles over defence and welfare spending as the House debated budget proposals.

McDonald Douglas at \$72 1/4 gave up 3/4 and United Technologies shed 3/4 to \$40 1/4. General Electric was 3/4 off at \$80 1/4.

A fall of \$1 to \$131 1/4 in IBM helped hold down the Dow Jones average. Other computer stocks were mixed, NCR adding 3/4 to \$29 1/4, while Honeywell shed the same amount to \$81.

Motor stocks were somewhat disappointing, however, turnover was small. Although lower interest rates traditionally benefit industry sales, General Motors shed 3/4 to \$59 1/4, and Chrysler by 3/4 to \$35 1/4.

EUROPE

Frankfurt powered by automobiles

FOREIGN institutional investors made their presence strongly felt during robust trading in Frankfurt yesterday as the Commerzbank index continued its upward drive to new peaks.

For the 11th day in the past 15 sessions the market indicator reached a record, adding 8.7 to 1,294.8, despite a modest easing in the tone during late trading.

The foreign and domestic interest was centred on a select group of stocks with automotive shares replacing banks as favourites.

Spurred by Daimler Benz's strong earnings growth in the past four months and the implications this has for others in the industry, almost all stocks in the sector marched forward.

Daimler led the field with a DM 12.50 advance to DM 758, while BMW added DM 5.70 to DM 388.50 and Porsche DM 18 to DM 1,219.

Trading in bank shares lost momentum after several days of unabated rises. Deutsche Bank lost DM 1.50 to DM 498 and Dresdner DM 1 to DM 226.50, although Commerzbank firmed 30 pf to DM 188.30.

Engineering stocks eased after a firm opening with Linde falling DM 3 to DM 448 and Preussag down DM 2 to DM 279.50 after news of lower first-quarter sales. MAN moved against the trend and firmed DM 1 to DM 157.

The bond market's sentiment was dented by a lower close in U.S. credit markets, a firm dollar and a lack of new incentives to continue the recent strength.

Trading remained active in Amsterdam, although price movements were marginal either way.

Insurer Amey slipped 10 cents to Fl 242.70 despite its announcement of a first-quarter profit rise while Aegon was down Fl 4 after going ex a Fl 3.50 dividend to finish at Fl 189.

Among other major groups, Royal Dutch eased Fl 7.50 after going ex a Fl 8.75 dividend and Unilever, firmed Fl 1.50 to Fl 343.50.

Consolidation after a rally seen during the past week continued in Zurich with bank stocks falling to profit-taking. Bank Leu dropped SwFr 175 to SwFr 3,775 an Unipol Bank SwFr 35 to SwFr 3,880.

Insurance stocks were generally sold with Winterthur shares marked down by SwFr 185 to SwFr 4,390, despite news that it will pay a higher dividend, and Zurich Insurance moved SwFr 175 lower at SwFr 25,550.

Paris share prices continued sharply higher in a busy session. The opening of the new trading account help build on the market's fundamental strength.

By the close of trading, advances outnumbered declines by 117 to 20 with seven companies unchanged.

The recent declines in domestic interest rates continued to lift the tempo of trading in Brussels and hopes of further reductions added further support.

Wagon Lit was again among the leading rises, firming Bfr 185 to Bfr 3,170 while Gavaert added a further Bfr 85 to Bfr 3,750.

For the fourth consecutive day, Stockholm prices lost ground as fears about high domestic interest rates hit into confidence.

Electroflux was an important exception, closing SKr 1 higher at SKr 290 as the most actively traded stock.

The fall in Volvo's first quarter earnings, although widely expected, pushed the group's shares SKr 12 lower to SKr 233.

The banks were mixed with Handelsbanken SKr 1 down at SKr 141 and Skanska the same amount higher to SKr 91.

Milan ended the day mostly lower in heavy but erratic trading. The market, having risen sharply in recent months, is consolidating while awaiting direction from the outcome of union wage negotiations.

Business remained light in Madrid with the market marginally lower.

TOKYO

Hesitation tempers the mood

CAUTION was evident during trading in Tokyo yesterday as investors began to question whether the market had overextended itself during the recent six-day upswing, writes Shigeo Nishiwaki of Jiji Press.

Large-capital stocks, notably electric and pharmaceutical groups, came under the heaviest profit-taking pressure.

The Nikkei-Dow market average, which had gained 316 points in the previous six trading days, lost 24.44 from the preceding day to 12,649.13. Losses outnumbered rises by 449 to 339, with 143 issues unchanged. Volume decreased from Wednesday's 751.16n shares to 554.91n.

However, among biotechnology-related stocks, Mitsubishi Chemical topped the active list with 28.41n shares changing hands as it rose Y11 at one point before closing Y6 higher at Y505, while Asahi Chemical, after opening weaker, attracted strong buying interest toward the close and finished at Y1,010 - unchanged from the previous day.

But other biotechnology issues were generally depressed, with Green Cross falling Y90 to Y2,710 and Daiinippon Pharmaceutical Y30 to Y4,610.

Fuji Electric, which had been sought following its development of solar batteries using amorphous alloys, closed Y3 lower at Y388, with a turnover of 13.62n shares.

Cement stocks were also in the spotlight. Onoda Cement added Y30 to Y372, while Nihon Cement and Sumitomo Cement each gained Y11 to Y291 and Y350, respectively. Plans for diversification attracted investor attention to these issues.

Buying interest in large-capital stocks weakened. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries was the second busiest issue with 25.89 shares changing hands, but dropped Y4 to Y283. Nippon Steel also dipped Y4 to Y155.

Electric power and gas issues lost strength across a broad range, with Tokyo Gas shedding Y5 to Y212 and Tokyo Electric Power Y20 to Y1,930.

Sankyo Steamship tumbled to Y96 at one point but closed Y10 down at Y100. Small-lot selling pushed down blue chips across a wide front. Fujitsu lost Y30 to Y1,110 and Hitachi Y15 to Y771.

Buying orders placed with the "big four" brokerage houses by foreigners in early trading totalled 43n shares against selling orders for 31.5m shares. Foreign interest centred on steel, electric power, gas and railway issues.

Bond prices opened lower in response to the weakness of U.S. bond prices and the yen, but later recouped some ground on purchasing by trust banks and other institutions. The yield on 7.3 per cent government bonds due in December 1993 rose from Wednesday's 8.595 to 8.605 per cent.

SOUTH AFRICA

GOLD stocks turned lower in heavy trading, reflecting the easier trend in international bullion prices.

Randfontein slipped by R2.50 to R212, Southval lost R2 to R88.50 while Buffels remained unchanged at R86.

The lower trend flowed on to affect other precious metals and minerals with Rustenburg Platinum shedding 30 cents to R18.80, diamond share De Beers 5 cents to R10.90 and Palamin 25 cents to R18.25.

CANADA

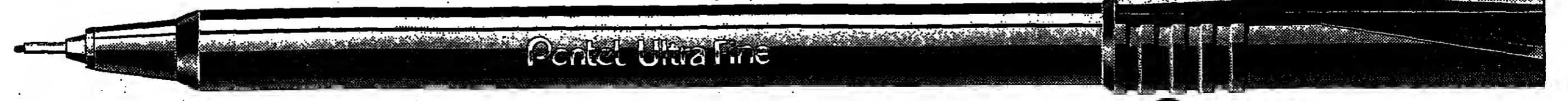
TORONTO retreated for the second day running in heavy trading, with the composite index slipping 16.77 to close at 2891.38.

Gulf Canada topped the actives, shedding CS% to CS18%, having resumed trading in the afternoon after Olympia & York said it planned to acquire Chevron's 80 per cent stake in the company.

Among other actives, Bell Canada lost CS% to CS41%, Royal Bank rose CS% to CS29% and Shell Canada shed CS1% at CS28%.

Montreal traded down with industrials, banks and utilities all off.

"Pentel Ultra Fine. Some people (actually my wife and the family dog) call me a fine writer. Am I about to become an ultra fine one?" *Frank Miller*



The orange barrelled fine plastic point pen. Hardwearing plastic tip for fine line detail. Smooth, even ink flow. Available in four ink colours: black, red, blue and green.

Pentel Ultra Fine

[illegible]

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 85 years of age or older is projected to increase from 2 million to 4 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 90 years of age or older is projected to increase from 500,000 to 1 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 95 years of age or older is projected to increase from 100,000 to 200,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996). The number of people 100 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10,000 to 20,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

EQUITIES

a										
O14	9	8			1360	80	103		63	
O14	7	3			1300	46	66	86	20	53
	6½	6¼			1350	16	55	55	48	92
1										
1	15	14								
-	28	28								

May 95. Total contracts 9,510 Oats 7,100. Puts \$,410.
 • Underlying security price.

Manufacturers Life Insurance Co (UK) Property Equity & Life Ass. Co.

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Asia Investment

[illegible]

The Money Market Trust

Money Market

22 Charlotte Sq. Edinburgh, EH2 4DF
Current Acc. _____ 12.25 B.75d

1627 **Britannia Investment Services Ltd.**

7.53	U.S. Dollar	7.50	5.61
4.64	German Mark	5.0	4.79
5.04	Swiss Franc	3.00	2.50
5.03	Japanese Yen	1.00	0.25

152 Dartington, Tones, Devon TQ9 6JE. 0803 862272
 -- Money Mtd Acc. 12.75 9.55 14.37 Gr

38 Threadneedle St EC2P 2EH
Money Adv. Charge Acc. 12.05 9.00

Provincial Trust (formerly Cheshamtons)
30 Ashley Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA1 2DW 061-928 0000

Save & Prosper/Robert Fleming
28 Western Rd. Dorland NJ 07034

Western Trust & Savings Limited
The Moneycentre, Plymouth PL 1SE 0752 24141
High Int Chq Acc. 1269 9.6d 1

NOTES

